



2023 APS Community Impact Report



Investing in **Arizona Communities**

At APS, we are dedicated to investing in the community and the people we serve. We know our customers, community partners and nonprofit leaders are also our neighbors, family members and friends. Our corporate giving plan aligns with the APS Promise, to do what is right for the people and prosperity of our state. We cultivate authentic and valuable relationships with nonprofit organizations and leaders to formulate programs addressing the most fundamental community needs with measurable impact.

Our community engagement strategy is focused on two main pillars: **Arizona's Growth** and **Prosperity** to support a strong and growing economy through creating a thriving and prosperous Arizona, and **Human** and **Environmental Services** as we care about people and our environment by supporting partners who deliver services for basic human needs and environmental sustainability. Each area of focus directs our support throughout the state.

ARIZONA'S GROWTH & PROSPERITY




- Education & Employment
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship
- Arts & Culture


HUMAN & ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESS





- Human Services
- Environment
- Community Development


AREAS OF FOCUS


 **EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT** We focus on improving access to post-secondary education, advancing teacher success, and pathways to careers in energy. This includes innovative programs with measurable outcomes that provide direct educator support or promote educational equity, access, college and career readiness.

 **SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP** We expand opportunities for local and underserved entrepreneurs to strengthen local economies and promote inclusive economic growth. This includes programs that facilitate job creation and/or greater market access through capital, capacity-building, technical assistance and technology adoption.

 **ARTS & CULTURE** We focus on increasing access to high quality arts experiences for underserved communities and Title 1 students. This includes programs that remove barriers and promote inclusion of underserved youth and historically marginalized communities, as well as projects that use arts teaching and learning as a means for youth development.

 **HUMAN SERVICES** We focus on providing basic needs for Arizona's most vulnerable populations. This includes food security programs, heat relief, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, affordable housing and related support services that improve community resilience and promote social cohesion.

 **ENVIRONMENT** We build healthy communities, environmental stewardship and promote equity in Arizona's clean energy transition. This includes programs that preserve Arizona's natural beauty and deliver locally relevant sustainability solutions.

 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** We focus on protecting Arizona's quality of life for future generations through civic engagement, inclusive leadership development, community revitalization and rural development programs.



Aligning to the APS Promise and our vision to create a sustainable energy future

Our goal is to support communities through an engagement strategy that is responsive to the needs of the community. Driving impact through strategic partnerships, programs, and grants gives us the chance to demonstrate the APS Promise across the state. Our long-term initiatives to focus on customer’s experiences and community stewardship, support an evolving workforce and ensure long-term financial health will help us reach our vision for a sustainable energy future. Collaborating with community partners to make a difference and add value to someone’s life is why we do the work that we do.

2023 Signature Programs

Our method of engaging with the community includes continuous stakeholder input and involvement to ensure an intentional approach. In partnership with several trusted community partners, APS developed **twelve strategic programs** that help enhance the social, economic and environmental conditions throughout Arizona.



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

APS SUPPLY MY CLASS

To support teachers and better equip students in a successful learning environment, the **Supply My Class** program awards 500 randomly selected teachers a **\$500 gift card** to purchase classroom supplies. Teachers from **251 Title 1 schools** in APS service territory were awarded gift cards to assist them in purchasing the resources needed to support their students. In 2023, 260 winning teachers were from rural communities and 185 were within their first three years



of teaching. APS employees and executives volunteered their time to surprise 100% of the winning teachers in person with hand-delivered certificates demonstrating our dedication to and appreciation of Arizona teachers.

EARN TO LEARN

Working collaboratively with public-school partners, **Earn to Learn** aims to identify students with tremendous potential to succeed by empowering low-to-moderate income students in rural areas to achieve the dream of a college education.



In 2023, Earn to Learn awarded **238 new scholarships** with the support of APS and expanded the program to five rural community colleges. The **Mentorship Program** matched five APS volunteers as mentors to students in related fields. Earn To Learn also increased its **Peer College Access** program in high schools within APS’s service territory, which resulted in 77% of students signed up for FAFSA completion. Of these FAFSA applicants, **43% in rural communities** and **62% of students were first-generation college applicants**, which means they are the first members in their families to begin the journey into post-secondary education.

Education & Employment continued on next page

VOLUNTEERISM

At APS, we believe having healthy, vibrant communities is vital. Through the APS Community Connectors volunteer program, employees contribute their time and talents to affect meaningful impact in the community. Working alongside community partners to serve and pour into the lives of those who need it most reflects the culture of giving back within APS. The employees are more than just the team producing the power for its customers, we also have a heart for our community and care about the people within it. Our employees invested 79,286 hours volunteering at over 300 community opportunities, a \$2.4 million value of hours contributed.



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT *Continued*

APS LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP

In partnership with **Friendly House, Inc.**, this program promotes equality of opportunity, awareness and greater participation of underrepresented groups among lineworkers. Linework requires years of training and formal apprenticeship to be successful. This program identifies and supports high-potential, diverse individuals interested in **pre-apprentice opportunities** and provides them with a scholarship to offset tuition to attend an in-state **Electrical Lineworker Certification Program**. APS awards candidates with needs-based tuition assistance and wrap-around support services to enhance their capabilities through Electric Utility Lineworker training at Yavapai College.

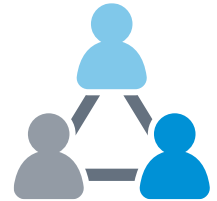
In 2023, four deserving recipients were awarded scholarships for the program.

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

APS continues its support of the **Indigenous Leadership Academy (ILA)**, facilitated by the **American Indian Policy Institute** at ASU. The ILA is the first program inclusive of Indigenous leadership principles which has created an original curriculum and a brand that has attracted emerging Indigenous and community leaders from Arizona and nationwide. The ILA works with these leaders to expand their knowledge, skills and networks to address long-term issues faced



by Indigenous governments, communities, associations and corporations. The program inspires and motivates participants to execute strategies and lead change in their communities. In 2023, the ILA completed two cohort sessions and **graduated 87 participants** representing **22 Tribal Nations**, 14 of which are in Arizona.



SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GOING GREEN & GOING SMART

Our community engagement approach led us to establish distinctive programs effectively maximizing social economic and environmental impacts throughout the state. In collaboration with **Compass CBS Foundation**, APS created **Going Green & Going Smart** to teach small business owners in Arizona how to save on energy costs and become greener through rebates, incentives or adoption of smart technology. Implementing sustainable practices in small business can lead to big improvements in energy and cost savings. The inaugural **Going Green & Going Smart Summit** provided workshops and small business resources and featured APS's President, Ted Geisler as a featured speaker. Community engagement in partnership with rural chambers of commerce in Flagstaff, Prescott, and Winslow enabled the program



to reach business owners of many industries beyond metro Phoenix. Nearly **500 businesses** enrolled throughout the state, received their certificate and a template to customize a sustainability plan for their business.

Small Business & Entrepreneurship continued on next page

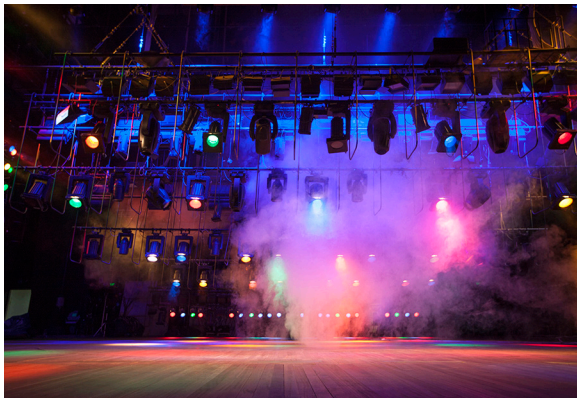
SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP *Continued*

NORTHERN ARIZONA KIVA HUB

In partnership with the **Better Business Bureau**, **Northern Arizona Kiva Hub** seeks to provide zero-percent interest loans and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and start-ups unable to access traditional capital. Program outreach is focused on underrepresented and underserved rural communities in Northern Arizona.



ARTS & CULTURE



SUPPORTING A WIDE CULTURAL OUTREACH

APS believes we exemplify our unity as a community through access to arts and culture. We continue to provide funding for nearly **69 organizations** that support local arts and culture and focus on giving youth access to arts experiences. CEO Jeff Guldner was recognized by a long-standing partner, Phoenix Theatre Company, as **2023 Man of Character**. This recognition was due to his long-time support of the local arts community. APS supports the **Phoenix Symphony Pops Series** that is designed to reach and serve a broader cross-section of the community.



ENVIRONMENT

APS COMMUNITY TREE PROGRAM

In the Valley of the Sun, the effects of the urban heat island on our community are widespread and shade trees are the most natural and sustainable solution. The **APS Community Tree Program** works to ensure people and neighborhoods across our community receive the many benefits trees provide. In partnership with **Trees Matter** and the **Arizona Sustainability Alliance**, APS awarded **\$101,775** in grant funds to **14 schools**, in addition to tree plantings for **nonprofit organizations** and **cities/towns**. During the program's second year, **386 new trees were planted**. The program aims to reduce heat island effect by expanding the tree canopy cover in vulnerable communities within APS's service territory and support the **APS Clean Energy Commitment**.



Environment continued on next page

ENVIRONMENT *Continued*

WOOD FOR LIFE

Understanding the danger and devastation wildfires can create, we collaborate with **National Forest Foundation** and **Ancestral Land Corporation** on an innovative project, **Wood for Life**. This project provides fuel for Native American communities as it simultaneously helps Arizona forests through thinning downed trees. Thinning is an effective and powerful forest management tool that promotes tree growth and restores forest health. Ancestral Land Corporation is an indigenous-specific conservation corps that provides young crew members training, skills and certifications. The crews distribute the repurposed wood to Hopi and Navajo households



to heat their homes during winter months. In total, the project produced **450 cords of wood** that served **391 individuals and families**.



HUMAN SERVICES

HEAT RELIEF

To help those vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat conditions, APS developed a comprehensive heat-relief program in partnership with multiple partner agencies statewide. APS provides support for **St. Vincent de Paul's Emergency Shelter** and **Eviction-Protection** program, helping to ensure individuals and families have a place to seek shelter either at home through homeless-prevention assistance or at their new Washington Street emergency shelter.



We also provide both funding and volunteers to support **Salvation Army's 19 cooling and hydration stations** across the state. Crews of APS volunteers worked to assemble **1,000 heat-relief kits** that were distributed to individuals in need and we partnered with the **City of Phoenix** to hand out water, heat-relief supplies, and help connect unsheltered individuals with information for city services and nearby cooling sites



across the city. Filling the transportation gap that exists for many who struggle to seek shelter from the heat, our collaboration with **Solari, Inc.** and **Lyft** increased **free rides** to the nearest cooling station. In partnership with **FSL**, **44 vulnerable households** received emergency air conditioning repair or replacement ensuring their health and safety during the summer months.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

In 2023, APS received the following:

- Innovative Corporate Philanthropy Award from *Phoenix Business Journal*
- Largest Corporate Philanthropist Award from *Phoenix Business Journal*
- 2nd Largest Employee Volunteer Program Award from *Phoenix Business Journal*
- Phoenix Mayor's Volunteer Impact Award for support of *Heat Relief Outreach*
- Exceptional Workplace Award from Greater Phoenix Chamber IMPACT Awards
- Community Champion Award from Greater Phoenix Chamber IMPACT Awards



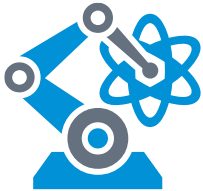


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As the state continues to grow, the needs of the community expand and evolve. We leverage our collaboration with organizations aligned with our values to respond collectively to the diverse needs of our communities for a greater reach beyond our traditional corporate giving program. We continue to partner with our cities and towns drive impact through diverse regions in unique ways. In 2023 APS supported over 38 chambers of commerce and over 44 parades across the state of Arizona.

STEM MINI-GRANTS

APS remains focused on supporting education and strives to increase the rate of post-secondary education across the state. **STEM education** is an integral part of this process. Many schools lack the means and resources to acquire the tools and supplies necessary to teach STEM in an innovative and productive manner. In partnership with the **Phoenix Suns**, this grant program awards teachers with funding to access the materials, tools and resources needed to create an innovative STEM program for their students. Across the state, a total of **\$50,000** was awarded to **27 teachers** serving **7,331 students**. We increased our impact in rural areas: 63% of schools awarded grants, representing 3,600 students, are located outside Metro Phoenix.



APS FOUNDATION

The **APS Foundation** supports programs and projects that enhance academic achievement in the areas of **STEM**. The Foundation funded **29 programs** that directly impacted

teachers and students across Arizona, from Metro Phoenix to surrounding rural communities. Grants provided critical STEM training for nearly **3,700 teachers** and STEM engagement and learning for more than **300,000 students**.

FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION

APS partners with **Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation** to provide grants to support first responders in APS's service territory to purchase life-saving equipment. Six rural and two metro first responders in Arizona received much needed access to training and emergency medical equipment through this grant program. In total, **\$131,168** was awarded to **Tonto Basin Fire District, Verde Valley Fire District, Pinewood Fire District, Mayer Fire Department** and **Crown King Fire Department**.



WEST VALLEY GRANTS

Through an APS endowment held at the **Arizona Community Foundation**, APS granted funds to **37 nonprofits** for programs that support community development in the West Valley. Grants supported projects focused on food security, housing and homelessness, art and music programming for low-income youth and more. In addition, we awarded **\$75,000** to **nine nonprofits** serving the Issac and Murphy school districts in the West Valley. These are the areas that will be most affected by the West Valley Plant Revitalization project.



DELIVERING FOR THE COMMUNITY IN 2023

As part of our **Community Engagement Strategy**, APS actively partners with nonprofit organizations to develop programs and provide funds that drive measurable impact to support Arizona communities where it's needed most.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

345,499

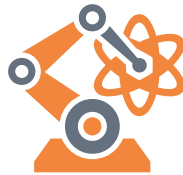
Students exposed to **STEM education**.

253

Scholarships provided.

2,847

Teachers supported with resources.



251

Title 1 Schools awarded grants.



SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GOING GREEN ♦ GOING SMART

500

Businesses enrolled in the English & Spanish program.

53

small business **Accelerator Program** graduates.

\$300,000

Secured in **capital funding**.



ARTS & CULTURE

Increased access to **high quality arts experiences** for **underserved communities**, **improving academic performance** and **creativity** for students in partnership with

69

Arts & Culture organizations.

10

APS Pops Symphony Series concerts.



HUMAN SERVICES

HEAT RELIEF PROGRAM

83,871

Individuals received **heat relief** services.

205,035

Bottles of **water** distributed at **cooling centers**.

607

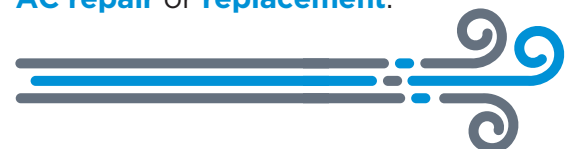
Rides provided to **heat relief** sites.



AC REPAIR PROGRAM

44

vulnerable families received **AC repair** or **replacement**.





ENVIRONMENT

APS COMMUNITY TREE PROGRAM

386 Trees planted.
14 Schools awarded tree grants.
13 Tree plantings at nonprofits, cities and towns.

WOOD FOR LIFE

Produced enough cords of wood to heat

391 Hopi and Navajo households.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

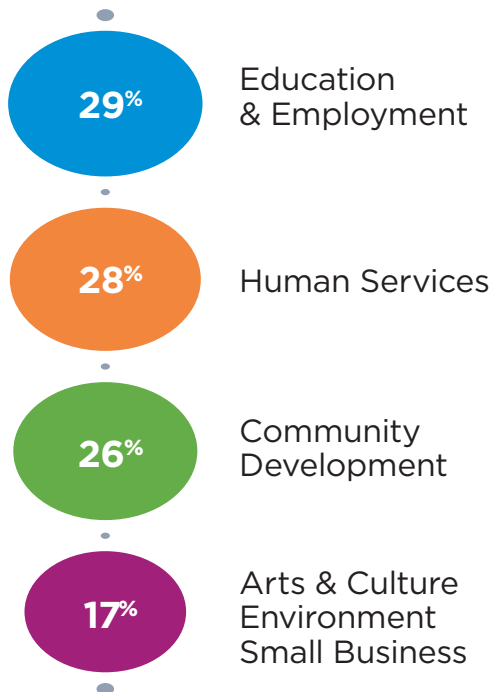
APS VOLUNTEERISM

6,055 APS Employees + **79,286** Volunteer hours @ **300+** Events statewide = **\$2.4 MILLION** Volunteer hours value



2023 APS COMMUNITY IMPACT

PHILANTHROPIC GIVING



REGIONS OF SUPPORT

