




2022 APS Community Impact Report




Impacting **Arizona Communities**


At APS, we are committed to making an impact in our community. We know our customers, community partners and nonprofit leaders are also our neighbors, family members and friends. We designed a community engagement strategy that aligns with the APS Promise, to do what is right for the people and prosperity of our state. We develop genuine and valuable relationships with nonprofit organizations to create programs with measurable impact to address the most vital community needs.


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	HUMAN & ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESS
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education & Employment• Small Business & Entrepreneurship• Arts & Culture	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Services• Environment• Community Development


AREAS OF FOCUS


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EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT We will 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.
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SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP We will 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.
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ARTS & CULTURE We will 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.
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HUMAN SERVICES We will focus on providing basic needs for Arizona’s most vulnerable populations. This includes food security, heat relief, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention and related support services that improve community resilience and promote social cohesion.
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ENVIRONMENT We will focus on building healthy communities, environmental stewardship and promoting equity in Arizona’s clean energy transition. This includes innovative programs with measurable outcomes that preserve Arizona’s natural beauty and deliver locally relevant sustainable solutions.
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT We will 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 impact communities through an engagement strategy that is responsive to community needs. Driving impact through strategic partnerships, programs and grants provides us the opportunity to demonstrate the APS Promise throughout the state. Our long-term initiatives to focus on the customer experience and community stewardship, support an evolving workforce and ensure long-term financial health will help us reach our vision for a sustainable energy future.

2022 Signature Programs

Our approach to community engagement led us to create **APS Signature Programs**, which help maximize social, economic and environmental impacts across the state.



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

APS SUPPLY MY CLASS

To help ease the burden on teachers and provide students with the resources they need, the **Supply My Class** program randomly selects 500 teachers to receive a \$500 award at the start of the school year. These awards are part of a long history of supporting K-12 Title 1 public-school teachers in Arizona. The first 100 awards are directed to teachers who have been in their career less than three years. 2022 marked the fifth year of the program. In celebration, APS increased the number of recipients and granted a total of **1,500 teachers** with a **\$500 award**. We realized a tremendous impact, with 77% of eligible schools



having at least one teacher selected. APS employees and executives were eager to participate and volunteered to add their own personal touch by hand-delivering more than 50% of the awards, demonstrating our appreciation and dedication to the teachers of Arizona.

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 Program**. APS awards candidates with need-based tuition assistance and wrap-around support services to enhance their capabilities through Electric Utility Lineworker training at Yavapai College. In 2022, **four** deserving scholarship **recipients completed** and **graduated** from the program.



VOLUNTEERISM

Through the **APS Community Connectors** volunteer program, employees join their colleagues to improve the lives of the people who live in the communities we serve.

Investing the time to work hand in hand with our community partners and caring for those who need it the most is embedded in the APS culture. President Ted Geisler attributes the team at APS as being its secret sauce, saying, *"When it comes to providing the level of dedication, passion, hard work, tenacity and caring concern for their communities, we are unique."*

Our employees stepped up to volunteer at over 200 opportunities, contributing a total of **83,587 hours** of support.



Education & Employment continued on next page

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT *Continued*

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 2022, Earn to Learn awarded **238 new scholarships** with the support of APS. They also established the **Mentorship Program** that includes eight APS volunteers as mentors to students in related fields. Earn To Learn also increased their **Peer College Access** program in high schools in APS territories, which resulted in a **6.6% increase** in FAFSA completions. Of these FAFSA applicants, **52%** of those students were first-generation college applicants, which means they are the first members in the families to begin their journey into post-secondary education.

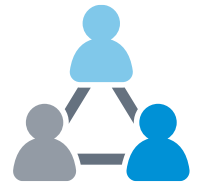


DIVERSE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

We partnered with the **Educational Outreach** and **Student Success** team at ASU to support efforts to develop a diverse workforce prepared for career opportunities in high-wage sectors in Arizona, and to ensure a stronger ecosystem of support for Black and underrepresented students at ASU. APS mentors provide personalized insight and guidance to students navigating internships and career opportunities. We continued our support of the **Black Changemaker Series** focused on increasing economic empowerment in the Black community. The series features dynamic panel discussions and engaging guest speakers with over 230 community participants. In collaboration with other key corporate thought leaders, we participated in **Leverage AZ**, which focused on disrupting systems of inequity and installing permanent frameworks of access and attainment for all of Arizona.

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 created an original curriculum and a brand that has attracted emerging Indigenous and community leaders from Arizona and across the nation. The ILA works with emerging Indigenous 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 2022, the ILA completed two cohort sessions and **graduated 46 participants** representing **22 Tribal Nations**, 14 of which are in Arizona.



SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GOING GREEN & GOING SMART

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. A Spanish version of the program was launched in 2022 creating access for Spanish-preferred owners. Community engagement, in partnership with rural chambers of commerce in



Flagstaff, Parker and Payson, enabled the program to reach business owners of many industries. Over **250 businesses** are enrolled throughout the state, received their certificate and a template to **customize a sustainability plan** for their business.

Small Business continued on next page

SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP *Continued*

NORTHERN ARIZONA KIVA HUB

In partnership with the **Better Business Bureau**, this program seeks to provide **zero-percent interest loans** to entrepreneurs and start-ups unable to access traditional capital. Program outreach focused on underrepresented and underserved rural communities in Northern Arizona, where business owners who received a **Kiva Hub Micro Loan** commented that, *“learning how many people want to see your business succeed sparked a fire to bring this business to life.”*



HUMAN SERVICES

SUPPLY MY FOOD BANK

Recognizing the growing food security crisis in our community, we responded with **Supply My Food Bank**. APS donated to local food banks providing **6.8 million meals** to the community. More than **300 APS employees, friends and family members** participated in multiple volunteer events at local food banks during their busiest times of year and collected more than **3,000 pounds of food**.



HEAT RELIEF



As part of a multi-prong approach to heat relief, we provided 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 people on the street or unsheltered. Filling the transportation gap that

exists for many who struggle to seek shelter from the heat, our collaboration with **Solari, Inc.** and **Lyft** provided free rides to the nearest cooling station. New in 2022, APS partnered with the City of Phoenix to support eight of their **We're Cool Heat Relief Outreach Events** from June—September. Teams of APS volunteers went to locations across Phoenix to hand out water, heat-relief supplies, and help connect the homeless with information on city services and nearby cooling sites. APS provides support for **St. Vincent de Paul, Emergency Shelter and Eviction-Protection program**, helping to ensure individuals and families have a place to seek shelter either at home through eviction-prevention assistance or at their new Washington Street emergency shelter. In partnership with FSL, **33 vulnerable senior households** received emergency air conditioning repair or replacement.



Human Services continued on next page

HUMAN SERVICES *Continued*



HOUSING

In partnership with the **Arizona Community Foundation**, we contributed **\$1 million** to the **Affordable Housing Fund** to support developing projects with innovative solutions to address the need for affordable housing. We also donated to the **Technical Assistance Partnership's Mobile Home Park Emergency Relief Fund** to assist families across the Valley who are facing immediate eviction due to the sale and reuse of mobile home parks.



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 **\$248,774** in grant

funds to **17 schools**, nonprofit organizations and cities/towns. During the program's inaugural year, **881 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**.

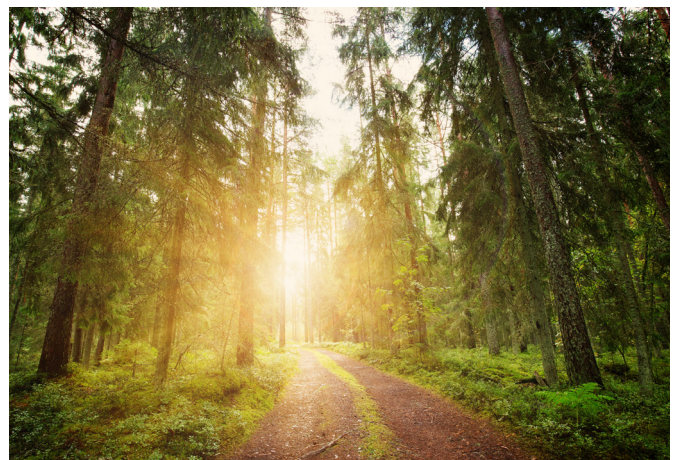


WOOD FOR LIFE

Understanding the danger and devastation wildfires can create, we partnered with the **National Forest Foundation (NFF)** on an innovative project, **Wood for Life**, to thin the forest in specific areas and repurpose the wood to help those in our Arizona tribal communities heat their homes during winter months. Thinning is an effective and powerful forest management tool that promotes tree growth and restores forest health.



In collaboration with **NFF** and **Ancestral Land Corporation**, 25 volunteer events were held to support over 2,000 hours of training to produce the wood cords. In total, the



project produced **800 cords of wood**, which is over 102,400 cubic feet, for distribution to **Hopi** and **Navajo** households to **heat their homes**.

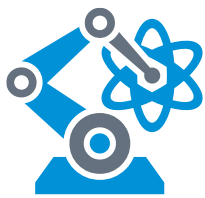


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | IMPACT PROGRAMS

Beyond our traditional corporate giving program, we collaborate with organizations aligned with our values to respond collectively to the diverse needs of our communities for a greater reach.

STEM MINI-GRANTS

Education remains a top focus for APS as we strive 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 awards teachers funding to access the materials, tools and resources to create an innovative STEM program for their students. Across the state, a total of **\$50,000** in funds were awarded to **26 teachers** serving **8,131 students**.



APS FOUNDATION

The **APS Foundation** supports programs and projects that enhance academic achievement in the areas of **STEM**. We funded **15 programs** that directly impact

teachers and students across Arizona, from Metro Phoenix to surrounding rural communities. Grants provided critical STEM training for nearly **3,300 teachers** and STEM engagement and learning for more than **60,000 students**.



FIREHOUSE SUBS FOUNDATION

APS partnered with **Firehouse Subs Foundation** to provide grants to support **first responders** in APS's service territory to purchase life-saving equipment. Five rural fire departments and police departments in Arizona were able to receive much needed access to training and emergency medical equipment. In total, **\$131,168** was granted 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 **Arizona Community Foundation** we granted funds to **28 nonprofits** for programs supporting community development in the West Valley. Organizations created projects focused on food services, art and music programs for low-income children and more. In addition, we awarded **\$165,000** to **four high-impact human service partners** that are focused on reducing homelessness in the West Valley.



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

APS was recognized by the **Phoenix Business Journal** as the **Largest Corporate Philanthropist** of Valley companies that give back in big and unexpected ways.