



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2017

# Western Arizona Council of Governments



A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY | LA PAZ, MOHAVE & YUMA COUNTIES



**Executive Board**  
 Jacqueline Price, Chair (La Paz County)  
 Carlos Gonzalez, Vice Chair (City of Somerton)  
 Joseph Allred, Secretary (Colorado City)  
 Gloria Torres (City of San Luis)  
 Tom Brady (Bullhead City)  
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 Cal Sheehy (Lake Havasu)  
 Michael Shelton (City of Yuma)  
 Norm Simpson (Town of Quartzsite)  
 Tom Tyree (Yuma County)  
 Gary Watson (Mohave County)

What unites WACOG’s efforts across our departments, and across the communities we serve in Western Arizona, is our focus on well-being.

Well-being is achieved not with any one program, service, or support. At WACOG, well-being means a holistic approach to individuals and communities that meets unique needs and mobilizes the assets of diversity.

Building well-being takes a great team, and WACOG’s team includes our staff, partners, and volunteers throughout La Paz, Mohave, and Yuma Counties. I extend my sincere gratitude to this team, and with pleasure share this report on our accomplishments of 2017.

Brian H. Babiars, Executive Director

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## Community Action Board

Donna McCoy (Mohave County)  
D.L. Wilson (La Paz County)  
Rev. Alex Montoya (Yuma County)  
Pastor Bruce Swart (La Paz County)  
Kathy Bruck (Mohave County)  
Vickie Bornt (Yuma County)  
George Nault (La Paz County)  
Joan McDermott (Mohave County)

The tri-partite board structure is defined by statute consisting of 1/3 Elected Officials, 1/3 Private Community Representatives, and 1/3 Low Income Representatives.

# HUMAN SERVICES

The well-being of a community is dependent on the well-being of its members. WACOG's Human Services provide the foundation of community resources and opportunities to help people thrive. With direct services and advocacy, WACOG strives to maximize the human potential in every one of us, to the benefit of our whole community.

## Homelessness Prevention & Stabilization

- ◆ Assisted 17 families with mortgage payments.
- ◆ Supported 98 households with rental deposits.
- ◆ 128 households received assistance with payment of first month's rent.
- ◆ Prevented eviction of 118 households.
- ◆ 2,551 households assisted with utility payments.

## Asset Building

- ◆ Provided Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) for 2016 taxes to 101 filers.
- ◆ Weatherized homes of 91 clients.
- ◆ Served 450 families with one-on-one housing counseling and education.
- ◆ 54 families attended 8-hour pre-purchase class on how to become a homeowner.
- ◆ 66 families attended a hands-on HomeWork class, learning maintenance skills and tips for being a successful homeowner.

WACOG's Human Services Department takes a holistic approach, blending housing supports, utility assistance, weatherization, coaching, and skill-building workshops to help families obtain and maintain stability in their homes and beyond.

Each program uses screening processes to make service connections relevant to the client, no matter their entry point. Whether helping a family facing eviction after a medical crisis or an older adult living on a fixed income, we unify layers of services and supports to provide each client with a person-centered experience.



# Western Arizona Community Alliance



## Board of Directors

Rena Arnold  
Duce Minor  
Rev. Alex Montoya  
Martin Porchas (Treasurer)  
Tony Reyes (President)  
Darla Tilley  
Rosa Velarde  
Cynthia Zwick

WACA, the 501c3 nonprofit affiliate of WACOG, aims to foster neighborhood revitalization, promote community and economic development, reduce poverty, and advocate social equity for low income, elderly, and other vulnerable people in Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave counties. Since 2014, WACA has pursued this mission as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) site.

## VISTA Pathways Out of Poverty

- ◆ Created cross-departmental workgroups to refine WACOG processes and better serve clients.
- ◆ Social enterprise program, **Western Arizona Home Performance**, provides home energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits.
- ◆ Developed **Individual Development Account (IDA)** program, offering matched savings accounts for post-secondary education.

## VISTA Get Healthy

- ◆ Supports development of health promotion programs under WACOG Area Agency on Aging, including Tai Chi for Arthritis, Walk with Ease, and the Chronic Disease Self Management Program.
- ◆ Contributes to county Community Health Assessments and WACOG volunteer recruitment.

## VISTA Summer Associates

- ◆ Assisted with customer service, utility assistance intakes, and Benefits Enrollment Center for 8 weeks during the summer.

## WACA VISTA Sub-Sites

- ◆ La Paz Education Services Agency
- ◆ La Paz Homelessness Continuum of Care

## VISTA Community Engagement

- ◆ Organized Breakfast with Santa, serving over 400 people.
- ◆ Taught Spanish classes at Yuma County Library.
- ◆ Assisted with financial literacy program at OC Johnson elementary school in Yuma.
- ◆ Participated in Yuma Area Nonprofit Institute.
- ◆ Assisted with Point-In-Time Counts of homeless population.





## Policy Council

Christina Aguiar  
Sara Arrellano, EHS  
Graciela Arreola  
Melissa Calderon, EHS  
Chelsie Carter, EHS-CCP  
Nicole Devore, EHS  
Yesenia Dueñas, EHS  
Amanda Fraga, Vice Chair  
Aracely Gallegos, Chair  
Bianca Garcia  
Jose Garcia  
Vijette Saari (First Things First)

Martha Gonzalez  
Enrique Guerrero  
Amanda King  
Ana Matus  
Emma Moser  
Yajahira Rivera  
Alexandra Sandoval  
Sara Staley  
Martin Torres  
Richard Walters  
Lena Weatherwax

Policy Council, a unique aspect of Head Start governance, supports active parent engagement in program design. Members are elected by currently enrolled families. Our dedicated parents serving as Policy Council members provide leadership and help shape the future of the Head Start program.

# HEAD START

90% of a child's brain develops before entering kindergarten. By fostering the brain architecture of children from birth to age 5, Head Start lays the foundation for well-being in school and in life. Head Start invests in our future by engaging children and families with care and support.

## In the 2016-2017 school year

- ◆ 23 Head Start centers served 1,143 children age 3-5.
- ◆ 5 Early Head Start (EHS) centers served 115 infants and toddlers age 3 and younger.
- ◆ 4 Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) centers served 121 infants and toddlers age 3 and younger.
- ◆ 1,964,755 family-style meals were served at an average cost of \$1.88 per meal.
- ◆ 43 Foster Grandparents and 27 community volunteers contributed a total of 24,666 hours of volunteer time to Head Start classrooms.

## Funded Enrollment 2016-17

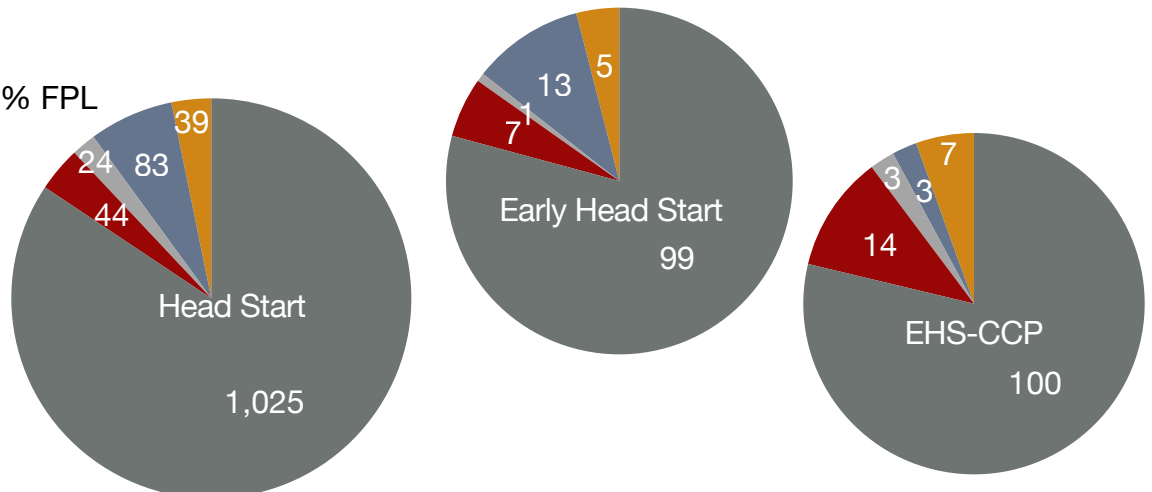
Center	Head Start	EHS	Center	Head Start	EHS
24 <sup>th</sup> Street	68		Lake Havasu City	20	
Brian Myer-Davis	34		Mohave Valley	20	
Bullhead City	55	8	Nautilus	20	
Carlisle	40		Orange Grove	20	
Carver	72		Oro Grande	17	
Cerbat	34		Pecan Grove	17	8
Ehrenberg	20		Rancho Viejo	112	16
Foothills	57	16	San Luis	77	8
Golden Valley	20		Wellton	20	
Helping Hand	72		Yuma East	40	
Hubbs House	19		Yuma West	80	
Kingman North	20				
<b>Total Funded</b>				<b>954</b>	<b>56</b>

## EHS CCP Funded Enrollment 2016-17

Bubbles Childcare and Preschool	16
The Gingerbread House	14
Happy Trails Day-Care	16
Izzy's Preschool & Childcare	8
Jardin Angelical	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

## Enrollment Eligibility

- Income below 100% FPL
- Foster Child
- Homeless
- Public Assistance
- Over Income

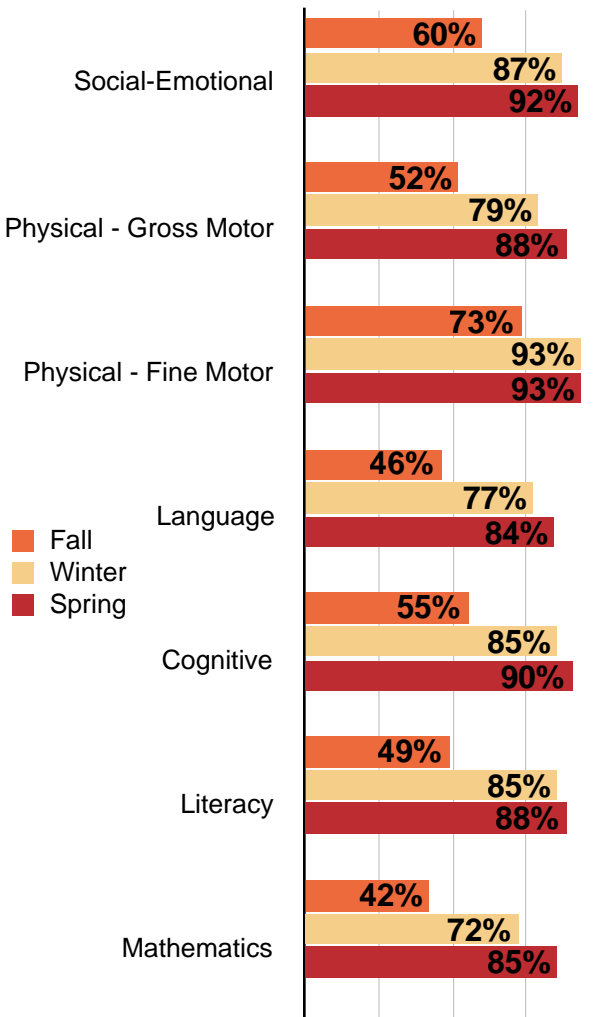


## Outcomes

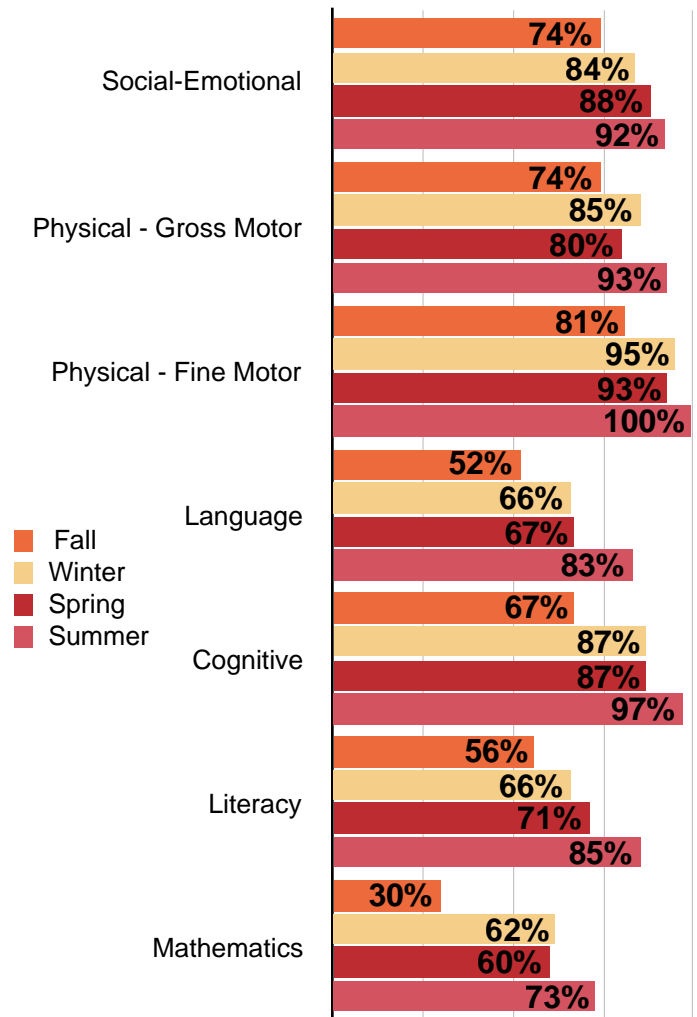
The Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) assessment system blends ongoing, observational assessment for all areas of development and learning with intentional, focused, performance-assessment tasks for predictors of school success in key developmental areas. In helping teachers document children's learning and development over time, the TSG system supports classroom planning and instruction, helps identify children who might benefit from special help, and enhances communication with family members.



### Head Start Children Meeting or Exceeding TSG Standards 2016-17



### Early Head Start Children Meeting or Exceeding TSG Standards 2016-17







## Health Screenings and Events

Head Start coordinates health screenings within 45 days of enrollment to ensure that each child is healthy and ready for school. In 2016-17:

- ◆ 96% of children completed a blood pressure screening,
- ◆ 97% completed a hearing screening,
- ◆ 97% completed a vision screening, and
- ◆ 98% completed a growth assessment.

Head Start works with parents to ensure that children complete medical and dental examinations within 90 days of enrollment. The goal of these health events is to help children avoid illnesses that cause absences so children are healthy and ready to learn. In 2016-17, 94% of children completed medical and dental examinations.

## Children with Identified Disabilities

Head Start programs set aside 10% of available slots for families of children with special needs, regardless of income.

In 2016-17, WACOG programs served children with identified disabilities across all programs:

- ◆ 116 children in Head Start (12%),
- ◆ 12 children in Early Head Start (21%), and
- ◆ 16 children in Early Head Start CCP (25%).

## Family Engagement Highlights

- ◆ 894 families completed health and nutrition education trainings.
- ◆ 35 families participated in asset-building services.
- ◆ Members of 17 families completed job training, professional certificates or licenses.
- ◆ 460 families participated in parent education or workshops.
- ◆ Provided mental health trainings and services to 130 families.
- ◆ 33 families completed English as a Second Language classes.
- ◆ 112 families participated in Adult Education classes (GED and College Selection).
- ◆ 120 families participated in job training programs.
- ◆ Provided substance abuse prevention education to 242 families.
- ◆ 246 families assisted with child abuse and domestic violence services.



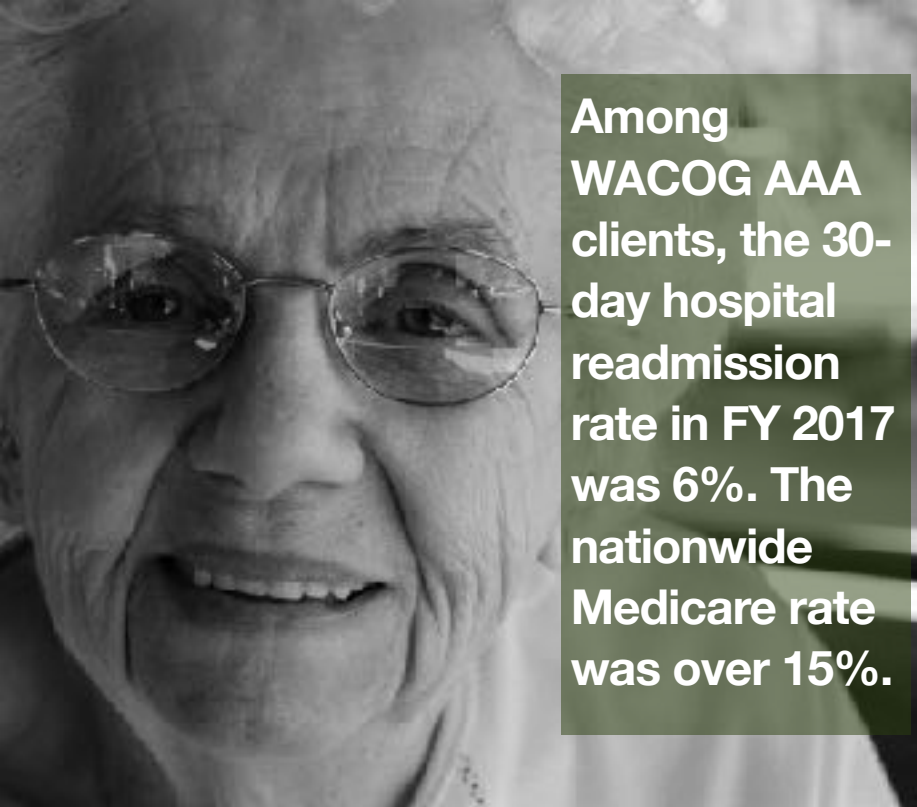
# AREA AGENCY ON AGING

## Regional Council on Aging

Jean Bishop (Mohave County)  
Vickie L. Bornt (Town of Wellton)  
Carol Brown (Yuma County)  
Kathleen Bruck (Bullhead City)  
Debera Daugherty (Mohave County)  
Vivian Hartless (Town of Parker)  
Donna McCoy (Lake Havasu City)  
Lynne Pancrazi (Yuma County)  
Michael Shelton (City of Yuma)  
D.L. Wilson (La Paz County)

The Regional Council on Aging (RCOA) functions as the AAA Advisory Council. This body advises on areas of program need and provides leadership, advocacy and activism on issues that affect the lives of older adults.

The Area Agency on Aging promotes the well-being of the population in the years and decades beyond age 60, as well as family caregivers and adults with disabilities. In the home and community, our programs and services enhance the health, independence, and dignity of the aging population.



**Among WACOG AAA clients, the 30-day hospital readmission rate in FY 2017 was 6%. The nationwide Medicare rate was over 15%.**



## Care Coordination

- ◆ 6,785 hours of case management provided to 1,363 people.
- ◆ 548 hours of case management for 209 family caregivers.
- ◆ 14 older adults supported with 4,227 hours of adult day care.
- ◆ Adult day care provided 2,344 hours of respite to 9 family caregivers.
- ◆ Served 155 older adults with 7,093 hours of attendant care.
- ◆ Provided 5,738 hours of respite to 36 people.
- ◆ Equipped two older adults with dementia with Safe Return identifying jewelry.
- ◆ 43 older adults received assistive devices.

## Information and Assistance

- ◆ Central Intake fielded 5,802 calls, serving 3,775 people with information, referrals, and assistance.
- ◆ Benefits Enrollment Center assisted 577 Medicare beneficiaries with applications and recertifications for 900 benefits.
- ◆ SHIP program counseled 2,314 people on Medicare and benefits.
- ◆ Through partnership with Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens, provided 607 hours of free legal services to 464 clients.

## Wellness and Engagement

- ◆ Held 205 health promotion workshops and classes attended by 699 people.
- ◆ Worked with 122 volunteers, who donated 28,014 hours of their time.

## Nutrition

- ◆ Through our provider network, served 93,097 congregate meals to 6,034 older adults.
- ◆ Our provider network served 184,811 home-delivered meals to 1,445 people.
- ◆ The providers that make this happen are Catholic Community Services (Yuma), Bullhead City, Somerton, Mohave County Senior Programs, Parker, and Mom's Meals.

## Transportation

- ◆ Assisted 581 older adults with free transportation, providing 30,008 one-way rides or bus passes.
- ◆ WACOG Rider Assistance Program (WRAP) served 110 people, reimbursing for 23,939 miles driven.

## Ombudsman

- ◆ Advocated for residents at 63 long-term care sites.
- ◆ Addressed 101 complaints.



# TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Planning assists local agencies and Native American Tribes within La Paz and Mohave Counties secure funding for transportation infrastructure and planning projects. WACOG provides coordinated planning and technical assistance for highway and local roadway improvement, population data collection and projections, regional and local transit studies, and coordination efforts between all transit programs throughout the region.

## Highway Planning and Research

WACOG coordinates highway planning in the region, liaising between ADOT and local governments:

### Data Collection

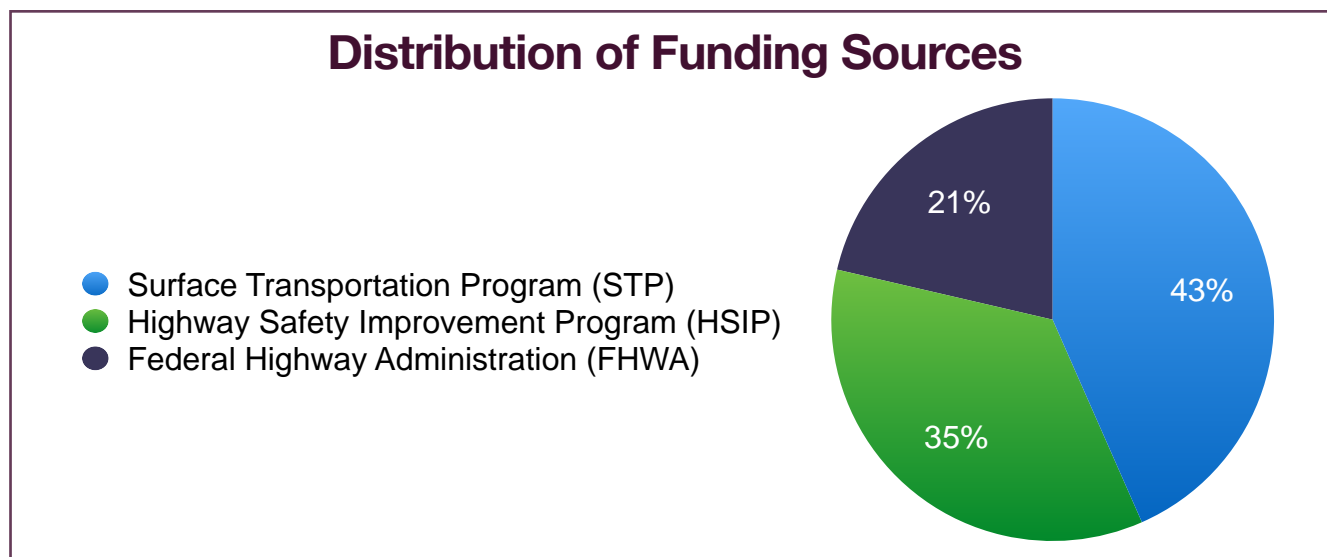
- Provide information to ADOT on roadway mileage under local jurisdiction in the region.
- Collaborate with local governments to submit building permit data for developing population estimates through participation in the State Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC).
- Represent the region in establishing population estimates and projections.
- Prioritize project requests in the region for state and federally funded programs.
- Manage a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

## Liaison and Coordination/Technical Assistance

- Participate on advisory committees for small area transportation studies.
- Attend area transportation planning organization meetings and represent the region at ADOT meetings.
- Maintain Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for transportation issues.

## Project Priority Programming

- Identify state and federal funding sources for highway construction projects and to add routes to the appropriate Federal Aid System.



## Transportation Planning Federally Aided Projects 2017-18

Jurisdiction and Projects		Amount
<b>Colorado City</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$404,294</b>
Project:	Colorado City; Johnson Ave, Central St, & Arizona Ave - ADA Ramps (STP)	\$404,294
<b>Kingman</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$726,462</b>
Project:	Stockton Hill Road - Safety Improvement Corridor (HSIP)	\$726,462
<b>Mohave County</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,313,036</b>
Projects:	Pierce Ferry Rd - Dolan Springs CBD Improvements (STP)	\$1,150,290
	Pierce Ferry Rd - Center & Edgeline Rumble Strips (HSIP)	\$456,998
	Courtwright Rd - Center & Edgeline Rumble Strips (HSIP)	\$546,681
	Solar LED Enhanced Speed Limit Signs (HSIP)	\$159,067
<b>La Paz County</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,309,885</b>
Projects:	Alamo Rd - MP 0 to MP 20 (FHWA)	\$712,077
	Salome Rd - MP 8.5 to MP 20 (FHWA)	\$579,077
	Salome Rd - Centennial Bridge South to County Line (FHWA)	\$1,018,731
<b>Colorado River Indian Tribe</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,740,699</b>
Project:	Mohave Rd - Center & Edgeline Rumble Strips (HSIP)	\$1,740,699
<b>Town of Quartzsite</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>
Project:	Design Inventory Software (HSIP)	\$180,000
<b>Lake Havasu City</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,136,358</b>
Projects:	Swanson Ave Improvements (STP)	\$1,981,474
	Lake Havasu Ave Reconstruction (STP)	\$1,154,884
<b>PROJECTS TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,810,734</b>

## Transit Planning and Mobility Management

WACOG facilitates regional transit planning activities to meet the growing demands of transportation for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and the public in rural population centers. Activities include:

- coordination and review of transit funding applications,
- management of the regional human services/public transit plan,
- regional resource allocation planning,
- travel training,
- cultivating partnerships and multi-agency relationships to facilitate rides for citizens,
- coordinating community-wide networking and coordination meetings, and
- providing technical assistance and resources for partners in the WACOG network.

WACOG has five Rural Public Transit Programs (5311) in Mohave County and fifteen Elderly and Disabled Transportation Programs (5310) within Mohave and La Paz Counties. These programs apply for competitive funding through the ADOT/FTA program and are awarded annually.

### Transit Programs: 2017 Awards

Service Provider (Service Area)	Award	Amount
KART - Kingman Area Regional Transit (Kingman)	5311 Rural Public Transit Programs (Capital, Operating, and Administration)	\$642,227
NAU - Senior Companion Program (Kingman, Lake Havasu, Bullhead)	5310 – Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Operating)	\$68,966
New Horizons (Lake Havasu)	5310 (Capital)	\$230,300
Mile Markers Therapy (Lake Havasu)	5310 (Capital and Operating)	\$120,380
ACHIEVE Human Services (Lake Havasu, Yuma, La Paz, Pinal, Gila & Mohave County)	5310 (Capital)	\$64,260
BATS - Bullhead Area Transit System (Bullhead)	5311 (Capital, Operating, and Administration)	\$794,405
WestCare Arizona 1 Inc. (Bullhead)	5310 (Capital and Operating)	\$110,751
NAZCARE (Bullhead)	5310 (Capital)	\$32,130
Camel Express (Quartzsite)	5311 (Capital, Operating, and Administration)	\$174,079
Hualapai Indian Health Education & Wellness (Peach Springs, Arizona & Nevada)	5310 (Capital and Operating)	\$87,430
Hualapai Transit (Peach Springs, Arizona & Nevada)	5311 (Capital, Operating, and Administration)	\$377,755
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians (Pipe Springs, Arizona, Utah & Nevada)	5311 (Capital and Operating)	\$86,011
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,788,694</b>

# FINANCIALS

## WESTERN ARIZONA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

### Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Year Ended June 30, 2017

	General Fund	Aging & Adult Administration	CSA Case Management	Head Start	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
Grant Revenue	-	4,031,005	2,256,095	9,713,024	2,623,851	18,623,975
Miscellaneous	24,134	-	-		25,939	50,073
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>24,134</b>	<b>4,031,005</b>	<b>2,256,095</b>	<b>9,713,024</b>	<b>2,649,790</b>	<b>18,674,048</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Current						
Child Development	77,701	-	-	9,941,487	559,936	10,129,124
Housing Rehabilitation	-	-	-	-	852,717	852,717
Community Services	48,800	-	2,253,542	-	1,150,698	3,453,040
Elderly Care	-	1,828,849	-	-	53,184	1,882,033
Interagency	-	2,200,880	-	-	-	2,200,880
Capital Outlay	-	1,277	2,553	242,096	5,277	251,202
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>126,501</b>	<b>4,031,005</b>	<b>2,256,095</b>	<b>9,733,583</b>	<b>2,621,811</b>	<b>18,768,995</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(102,367)	-	-	(20,559)	27,979	(94,947)
Other financing sources (uses) Transfers	401,319	-	(60,551)	-	(340,768)	-
Net change in fund balance	298,952	-	(60,551)	(20,559)	(312,789)	(94,947)
Fund Balance, beginning of year	589,814	80,305	65,833	75,516	449,935	1,261,403
<b>FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>888,766</b>	<b>80,305</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>54,957</b>	<b>137,146</b>	<b>1,166,456</b>

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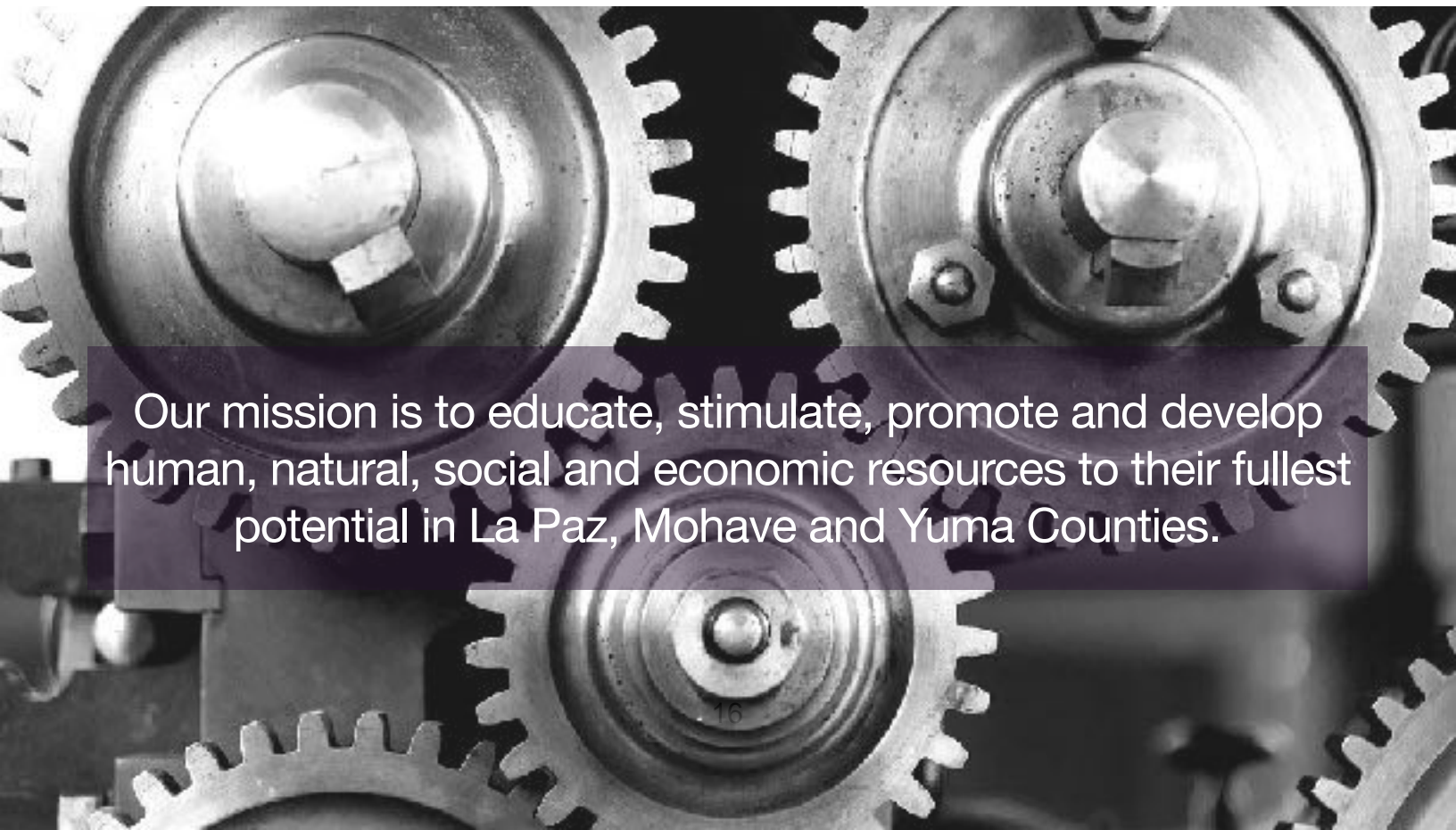
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***Strengthening Communities, Empowering People***



Our mission is to educate, stimulate, promote and develop human, natural, social and economic resources to their fullest potential in La Paz, Mohave and Yuma Counties.