



2024 **APS** **Community Impact Report**



THE IMPACT OF GIVING

*You don't have to shoot spiderwebs and swing from
skyscrapers to understand the truth behind the saying that
with great power comes great responsibility.*

*You only need to see the impact of your actions
to realize that when you have the ability to help,
you have an obligation to help.*

TINA MARIE TENTORI - DIRECTOR, APS COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

At **APS**, our community engagement and corporate giving strategy starts with one simple rule: our job is to make a difference in the lives of Arizonans. How we go about that job is what allows us to maximize our impact.

The principle of “**impact giving**” means that we immerse ourselves in the community and create meaningful partnerships to identify Arizonans’ most critical needs and respond strategically to address those needs in the most impactful way possible. We cannot support causes randomly or by personal preference or respond first-come, first-served. Our areas of focus for corporate giving represent many of our community’s most fundamental needs.

Impact giving means more than granting money; it requires deep engagement with the organizations and causes we support, innovative programs to address critical gaps, and individual involvement through volunteerism.

Over the last several years as our giving program has shifted to reflect this philosophy, we have seen the difference we are making. Because the programs we support or create respond to known needs, there is great demand for these services. Uptake grows year over year. New challenges arise. We evolve our programs to adjust and expand, so the need continues to be met.

None of this would be possible without the relationships we have with our partners who are making a difference in the community. And that is what this report is for. The following pages are dedicated to the difference that APS, our partners, our programs and our employees are making in the lives of Arizonans.

TINA MARIE TENTORI

DIRECTOR, APS COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
& EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, APS FOUNDATION



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The APS Promise guides what we do and how we do it. It leads with our purpose, to do what is right for the people and prosperity of our state. By aligning our philanthropic efforts closely to the Promise, we make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

JEFF GULDNER – APS CEO



HUMAN SERVICES

PROTECTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE ARIZONANS

As part of our philosophy of “**impact giving**,” we identify community needs and respond with meaningful partnerships and innovative programs that provide maximum benefit. The effect of Arizona’s intense heat on our most vulnerable is one obvious need, as is housing, which ties closely to heat. Addressing the effect of Arizona’s intense heat on our most vulnerable populations is a clear priority, closely intertwined with the critical need for housing.



A MUCH-NEEDED LIFT

Without reliable transportation, many cannot take advantage of cooling shelters and other resources. Enter the **2-1-1 Arizona Transportation Program**, a partnership with APS, Solari and Lyft that provides free rides to those in need.



In 2023, residents used 607 rides. Due to the need, the program’s effectiveness and increased efforts to spread the word, that number skyrocketed to 9,317 in 2024.



BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Phyllis and her husband, who is homebound because of a cancer diagnosis, had no air conditioning for three years. Virgil and his wife have custody of their young grandchildren and needed a new AC to provide the kids with a safe and healthy home. The **Healthy Homes Air Conditioning Program** and **Heat Relief AC Initiative** were able to help them and many others.

Healthy Homes, in partnership with FSL, and the Heat Relief AC Initiative, alongside Wildfire and other utilities, allow limited-income or fixed-income households to repair or replace their AC, at no cost to them, during the hot summer months. In 2024, between the two programs, 83 APS households received emergency AC repair or replacement.



EVERYONE PITCHING IN TO HELP

Heat relief is too big of a concern for one organization to go it alone. We depend on strong partnerships with many organizations around the state, as well as our employee volunteers. **The Salvation Army** operates 11 cooling and hydration stations in Metro Phoenix and eight more around the state. **Arizona Faith Network** has hydration, cooling and respite centers in churches across high need neighborhoods in Maricopa County. APS is a proud supporter of these programs, which cared for more than 128,000 individuals in 2024 and provided 188,725 bottles of water. Other partners providing services throughout the state include **Catholic Communities** and **United Way** chapters.

APS volunteers helped the **City of Phoenix** pack 1,500 heat relief kits for city cooling centers with water bottles, cooling towels, sunscreen, and other essential items.

HOME SWEET HOME

A home or shelter not only keeps individuals safe from the heat, but it provides many basic human necessities. **St. Vincent de Paul's** work to prevent eviction and homelessness as well as provide emergency, transitional or permanent housing kept 158 households and 453 individuals under roofs in 2024. **UMOM New Day Centers**, which shelters nearly 700 homeless individuals each night and offers 550 affordable housing units across the Valley, celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2024, with APS as a proud sponsor. Partner **Habitat for Humanity** organizations across Arizona work to achieve the group's vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

An individual in Yuma with a mental disability, with no AC and afraid to ask for help, was soaking in cold water in the tub to stay cool before the Western Arizona Council of Governments stepped in. As a WACOG official tells us:

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Thanks to the grant monies we received, we were able to replace his broken cooling unit quickly and efficiently. This simple yet vital intervention has transformed his daily life, providing him with a safe and comfortable living environment during the scorching summer months. Your support has directly contributed to enhancing the well-being of someone in dire need. Stories like these highlight the profound difference your contributions make in our community.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

As part of **United Food Bank's** 40th anniversary, it established a Million Meals Club to recognize companies that have donated the equivalent of 1 million meals. APS was honored as part of that club in February 2024 for supporting more than 1.7 million meals. We work with many food banks around the state, including a volunteer event with the Diamondbacks at **St. Mary's Food Bank** and a grant for **Congress Food Bank** to purchase a new backup generator. Working with **CPLC Community Center**, we helped them serve 4,476 school meals and distribute 4,299 food boxes. Our support helped partner **FIBCO Family Services Inc.** serve 8,800 lunches every Tuesday and distribute 10,518 food boxes via its mobile food pantry to vulnerable communities.



In 2024, 922 APS employee volunteers participated in 55 events totaling 1,908 hours of work helping food banks and related programs. They donated more than 2,000 pounds of food through various food drives during the year.

Through our support of food banks, **Meals on Wheels** organizations across the state and other food security programs, including several in rural Arizona, we are doing our part to tackle food insecurity.



EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

OPENING A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

One cannot understate the impact a quality education can have on someone's life. That's why we dedicate a significant portion of our philanthropic giving to helping students, teachers and families. We aim to make improvements all along the educational journey, from quality and equity at the K-12 level, to increasing access to post-secondary education. In addition, we support programs that advance teacher success and retention, leadership development and career readiness and create pathways to careers in energy.



THE GIFT OF GIVING

APS volunteers love being part of **APS Supply My Class** by hand delivering gift cards to teachers in Title I schools across Arizona, often with personal connections. With over 300 hours of volunteering, employees went out into the communities for various reasons to surprise teachers. Employee Kimberly Parks and her daughter, who also works at APS, surprised her daughter's former teacher. Juan Avalos awarded the prize to his daughter's kindergarten teacher. Others surprised relatives or went back to their hometowns to surprise their

former teachers. More than half of our senior executives also visited winning schools. Recognizing that most teachers spend a significant amount of money out of pocket for classroom supplies, APS Supply My Class grants 500 randomly selected teachers in the state each year with \$500 to buy supplies for their classrooms and students. In 2024, 124 of the winners were in their first three years of teaching, and 47% of the winners were from rural schools.



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I can't express with words how blessed we are to have such a great gift. My students need a lot of sensory items, and this gift will allow me to buy some. Thank you so much again! God bless you ALL!

**PATRICIA SOTOMAYOR – SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHER AT SUNRISE ELEMENTARY**

INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

Partnering with **Earn to Learn**, APS funded 175 new college scholarships for students in 2024. Earn to Learn not only gives low-to-moderate income students a chance at a college education through an 8:1 matched savings program, but it also teaches financial literacy and offers business mentoring.



In 2024, 64% of scholarship students were first-generation college students and 38% were from a rural community. In addition, 16 APS employees volunteered as mentors.

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*I love the program. It's benefited me a lot.
I've been able to graduate with no debt.
Hopefully I can pay for grad school because
I have the resources, and I know how
to properly save because of Earn to Learn.*

ANNA-MARIE PEREZ – EARN TO LEARN STUDENT



2024 interns Alexis Viniegra Puga, Ahmed Nasr and Abraham Duran take a site visit

MOVING EDUCATION FORWARD

Along with increasing our emphasis on education, we have strengthened our partnership with **Education Forward Arizona**. Through the EFA scholarship program, APS provides college students with financial support, mentorship, access to support services, and a pathway for those interested in careers in energy.

A SLAM DUNK FOR STEM EDUCATION

Middle school science teacher Natalie Carpenter got a surprise visit from Phoenix Suns player Ryan Dunn and the Suns Gorilla, who presented her with a \$1,500 **STEM grant**. She'll use the money toward robotics and electronics equipment so her students can complete hands-on STEM building projects.

Carpenter is one of 25 teachers across the state to receive a STEM grant in 2024 from the partnership between APS and the **Phoenix Suns**. For the year, we awarded a total of \$55,000 in grants through the program. Each recipient received a surprise in-person visit with their award.

There are over 100 applications each year. Teachers can apply for funding to support projects up to \$2,500.

CLIMBING TO NEW HEIGHTS

A career as a lineworker requires years of training and formal apprenticeship. For some high-potential candidates, a scholarship to the Electrical Utility Lineworker Certificate Program at Yavapai College is the way to open a door to that opportunity, removing the cost hindrance to requirements like college courses and a commercial driver's license. That's the thinking behind the **Lineworker Scholarship Program**, funded by APS and administered by **Earn to Learn**.

All four of this year's scholarship recipients graduated in December 2024. By completing the requirements in the certificate program, they are now fully prepared to apply for pre-apprenticeship.



2024 Lineworker Scholarship Program scholars, from left, Samual Chee, Jose Peinado, Roger Solis, Hans Weiderholt



THE APS FOUNDATION

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR STEM EDUCATION

There are many reasons why the **APS Foundation** is dedicated to science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM education: to address the learning gap in Arizona schools and the shortage of STEM teachers, to prepare students for the 21st century economy, and to build the type of workforce that will attract businesses to the state.



Foundation grants in 2024 supported programs that:

- Improve STEM education in K-12 classrooms across Arizona, such as ASU's **Arizona STEM Acceleration Project** or ASAP, which gives guidance and funding to STEM teachers so they can deliver high-quality, hands-on STEM lessons.
- Develop the next generation of STEM teachers, like the Arizona Educational Foundation's **teachSTEM** program, which starts middle and high school students on a path toward a career in STEM education.
- Jump-start careers in technology, such as **Per Scholas**, which provides tech training at no cost to the learners.
- Expand STEM to underserved communities, like Northern Arizona University's **Institute for Native-Serving Educators Professional Development Programs** and **American Indian College Fund Scholarships**.

These are just highlights. In 2024, the Foundation funded 29 STEM projects with an impact extending across Arizona — in-class programming for more than 100,000 students, support for more than 3,000 teachers, afterschool programs for more than 23,000 youth, access to post-secondary STEM education for 4,670 students, and college scholarships for 15 Navajo students.





VOLUNTEERISM

CONNECTING TO CAUSES IN THE COMMUNITY

They are instantly recognizable in their teal APS Community Connectors T-shirts, and you'll find them doing anything from stocking shelves at food pantries to making meals at Ronald McDonald House to cleaning up the Grand Canyon. Our employee volunteers are engaged members of their communities and naturally want to see their hometowns succeed, so they generously give their time and talents to worthy causes around the state. The Community Connectors are the embodiment of APS's culture of giving back.



In 2024, our employees invested 95,669 hours volunteering at over 300 community events, a \$3 million value of hours contributed.

Though it's a different kind of giving back, we recognize the 30 APS employees who spent time in Florida in October 2024, helping restore power to hundreds of homes and businesses after the destruction from Hurricanes Helene and Milton.



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

It's not why we do what we do, but it must mean we're making a difference. In 2024, APS received the following:

- **Top Corporate Philanthropy Award** from the *Phoenix Business Journal*
- **Third largest Corporate Volunteer Program** from the *Phoenix Business Journal*
- **Outstanding Partnership Award** from the Arizona Small Business Association
- **2024 Luminary Award** presented to CEO Jeff Guldner by Education Forward Arizona
- **Inaugural Safe to Age Award** from FSL for ongoing support of Healthy Homes programs
- **Million Meals Club** from United Food Bank for donations equal to 1 million meals
- **Kids at Heart Award** from Phoenix Children's Museum for contributions that enrich the lives of children
- **Corporate Building Excellence Award nomination** by Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona



ENVIRONMENT

KEEPING ARIZONA HEALTHY AND BEAUTIFUL

Our company vision is to create a sustainable energy future for Arizona. To bring that vision to life, we strive to positively impact the environment, not just by providing more clean energy, but also through our efforts in the community. We're blessed to live and work in Arizona and support programs and organizations that preserve its natural beauty, build healthy communities and deliver locally relevant sustainability solutions.



2024 Grand Canyon volunteer cleanup

MADE IN THE SHADE

After a morning of hard work from volunteers, there were 160 new trees and plants in the ground at the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. Providing shade and reducing the heat island effect, the trees are creating cooler spaces at this site and in vulnerable communities across the state, thanks to the **APS Community Tree Program**.

Trees are the most natural and sustainable solution to the heat island issue in Arizona. In 2024, 901 new trees were planted using \$122,566 in grant funds awarded to 17 Title I schools, rural areas, cities and towns, and other nonprofits. More than 100,000 APS customers are reaping the benefits trees provide because of the program, a partnership with **Trees Matter** and the **Arizona Sustainability Alliance**.



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Winkelman is very blessed to have been awarded the Tree Grant because trees offer much needed shade, combat climate change, clean the air, provide oxygen, prevent soil erosion in the Park, beautify space and provide a habitat for wildfire.

TOWN OF WINKLEMAN NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2024

DOING DOUBLE DUTY

Sustainable actions are often thought of as those that provide win-win solutions. The **Wood for Life** program is a perfect example. Wood from forest thinning activities in national forests is donated to Hopi and Navajo families, who use it to heat their homes in the winter. Thinning is an important part of forest restoration and wildfire prevention.

The program is a collaboration between APS, the **National Forest Foundation**, **Ancestral Lands**, the **Forest Service**, and various Tribal communities and nonprofits. In 2024, the project produced 276 cords of wood that served 348 families.



The partnership between APS and the National Forest Foundation has allowed us to catalyze needed work and expand the collective impact of the Wood for Life partnership. Thank you for your visionary support!

SASHA STORZ - SOUTHWEST REGION DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION



PRESERVING A NATURAL TREASURE

Arizona is home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Grand Canyon. We share a responsibility to protect it and do so through a partnership with the **Grand Canyon Conservancy**. In addition to employees volunteering at the Canyon several times a year, we support two Conservancy initiatives.

The **Grand Canyon Pollinator Conservation** program helps restore native vegetation that is essential for the survival of Monarch butterflies. Every summer, park staff, volunteers and supporters participate in the annual butterfly count. The **Colorado River Resource Management** program provides stewardship for this incredibly important resource, particularly where the river is impacted by visitors, climate change and dam operations.





SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GROWING THE ECONOMY

Small businesses are a large, important part of the Arizona economy. We do our part to ensure their success and create access to new opportunities, particularly for local business owners and entrepreneurs from underserved groups. This includes programs that create jobs or spur new businesses, as well as help existing businesses grow by providing training, resources, technical assistance and contacts in the marketplace.



GOING GREEN, MAKING GREEN

Chris Espinoza and Parker Villareal updated their barbershop in Chandler with energy-efficient light bulbs, water-conserving shower heads, eco-friendly cleaning supplies and hand dryers instead of paper towels. They are graduates of the **Going Green & Going Smart** program, which teaches small business owners how to be sustainable and successful. The course teaches ways to be more environmentally friendly, conserve energy and improve bottom lines. It also provides resources for owners to grow their businesses such as business acumen education, technical assistance and access to capital.



More than 600 businesses in locations ranging from metro Phoenix to Flagstaff, Prescott and Winslow have enrolled in the online, on-demand curriculum, which is run in collaboration with the **Compass CBS Foundation**.



APS partners with organizations around the state that work with entrepreneurs, support businesses or help grow the economy, including:

- Local First
- Better Business Bureau
- Arizona Small Business Association
- Coco-op Makerspace
- Pinal Alliance for Economic Growth
- East Valley Partnership
- NAU Nonprofit Leadership Conference in Flagstaff
- Verde Valley Leadership
- COOP
- Leadership West
- SCORE - Northern Arizona
- Sunnyside Neighborhood Association of Flagstaff
- We also support chambers throughout Arizona

GIVING BUSINESS A BOOST

Think “Shark Tank” meets “Arizona Highways” and you have the **Rural Arizona Pitch Competition**, run by **Moonshot AZ** and sponsored by APS. Entrepreneurs compete at 16 stops around the state, and the winners move on to compete for the \$10,000 state title prize or \$5,000 crowd favorite award.

In 2024, there were over 190 participants. While the winners took the cash, all received on-site coaching, peer review, access to capital and technical assistance. This year’s champ was Puzzle Rides, billed as an escape room on golf carts. Past participants included a 6-year-old entrepreneur whose family also works in the business, and the 2023 winner who developed and locally manufactured a teardrop trailer.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Impact AZ 2025 is a business accelerator program for minority- and women-owned businesses. APS is a proud sponsor of the program, facilitated by the Black Chamber of Arizona, which helps entrepreneurs to develop business acumen, receive technical assistance and acquire contracts to scale their businesses.



ARTS AND CULTURE

SHARING THE ARTS WITH EVERYONE

The benefits of engaging with the arts are far reaching. It's been shown to improve health and well-being and academic performance in individuals. Positive societal impacts include helping unify communities, promoting civic engagement and boosting local economies. To spread these benefits as wide as possible, we focus on increasing access to the arts and removing barriers, especially for underserved youth and historically underrepresented populations. We continue to provide funding for dozens of organizations that support local arts and culture statewide.



Free Day at the Museum of Northern Arizona

HIGHLIGHTS IN NORTHERN ARIZONA

The community comes together at **Creative Flagstaff's ArtX**, a multiday festival that showcases a diverse range of artists and experiences unique to the Southwest. "Free Days" at the **Museum of Northern Arizona** removes the financial burden of admission, while offering special activities each day. **The Flagstaff Symphony's Link Up** program brings music to the classroom and students to the concert hall, reaching 3,500 students and teachers each year at no cost to them.

ATTRACTIONS AROUND THE STATE

The Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum preserves the culture of the historic Miami-Globe region, and we're helping produce a special video project to bring that history alive for their patrons. At the **Children's Museum of Yuma County**, we helped light up some youngsters' lives with a giant interactive Lite Brite display. Our support helps cover instrument rental and class fees for Yuma students to participate in the **Yuma Orchestra Association**.

MORE HAPPENING IN METRO

APS sponsors the **Phoenix Symphony's Pops Series**, which is designed to appeal to a broader cross-section of the community. **Scottsdale Community Players'** sensory friendly performances create an accessible and inclusive environment for those on the autism spectrum, first-time theater goers and young children. APS is proud to sponsor these free shows.

The **Harmony Project** provides free music instruction to more than 350 youth and lends artists in residence to Phoenix Union High Schools to teach music and provide mentorship for underserved students.



Free Day at the Museum of Northern Arizona



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MAKING AN IMPACT LOCALLY

Our company values its role as an active member of the communities we serve. This gives us keen insight into the specific — and expanding — needs of diverse communities around the state. It also helps build relationships with like-minded organizations, with whom we can partner to respond to those needs. With a focus on rural communities, as well as civic engagement, leadership development and community revitalization statewide, we help protect Arizona's quality of life for future generations.



Joseph City Fire Department with ballistic vests, helmets and first aid kits

FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

The requests included everything from fire hoses, ballistic PPE vests and helmets, and automated external defibrillators to Polaris Ranger utility vehicles. Through our partnership with **Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation**, using \$78,500 in support from APS and an additional \$200,000 from Firehouse Subs, 10 Arizona fire and police departments purchased this life-saving equipment.



A BOOST FOR WEST VALLEY NONPROFITS

Nonprofits battling homelessness and housing insecurity, offering education and youth services and running arts and culture programs in West Valley Communities received much needed support from the **West Valley Grants** program. Through an endowment with the **Arizona Community Foundation**, we funded \$287,000 to 43 nonprofit organizations.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Arizonans have many varied choices of cities and towns where they can work, live and play. We don't pick favorites; our role is to help make each one flourish. APS support helps put on some of the locals' favorite community events, like the Prescott Rodeo, Eloy Glow, and numerous county fairs, parades and holiday light parades. We help cities and towns thrive by supporting chambers of commerce and the revitalization of community spaces like little league fields and the Town of Gila Bend's outdoor walking benches.

LEADING THE WAY

Through our support of numerous organizations, including the **Indigenous Leadership Academy (ILA)**, **Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI)**, **African American Leadership Institute (AALI)** and **Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders**, we are helping develop new leaders across Arizona.

As presenting sponsor, APS continues to support AALI, facilitated by the State of Black Arizona, which leads a Phoenix and a Southern Arizona cohort each year. The curriculum of this 10-week masterclass is dedicated to the individual development of African American leaders, with the aim of increasing their participation in critical civic, political and professional leadership positions.

The ILA, facilitated by the **American Indian Policy Institute** at ASU, is the only program of its kind in the country, and provides leadership training and other skills to equip emerging Native American leaders to return to their communities to lead change. Seven cohorts have completed the program. In the two 2024 cohorts, 133 graduates represented 63 tribes, 16 of which are in Arizona.

APS supports the four Arizona HLI programs, which are run by **Valle del Sol**. Five APS employees also completed the program in 2024, including Cuauhtemoc "Temo" Orozco (pictured right), a Nuclear Assurance Manager at Palo Verde Generating Station. "Through the program we were able to connect with various organizations working diligently to help strengthen and bring our communities together," he says.



ILA GRADUATES ARE MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Mikah Carlos, cohort 1, became the youngest person ever elected to Tribal council for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and was chosen by Governor Hobbs to be on the AZ MMIP task force.
- Triston Black, cohort 1, penned, "Internet in Tribal Communities is Unreliable and Holds Back Indigenous Education" in Teen Vogue.

2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT



EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

213,253

Students exposed to **STEM** education.

200

Scholarships provided.

4,849

Teachers supported with resources.



274

Title I schools awarded grants.

25

Schools received STEM grant funds via APS Foundation.



HUMAN SERVICES

HEAT RELIEF PROGRAM

142,227

Individuals received **heat relief** services.

188,725

Water bottles distributed at **cooling centers**.

9,317

Rides provided to **heat relief** sites.



AC REPAIR PROGRAM



83

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



SMALL BUSINESS

GOING GREEN ♦ GOING SMART

600+

Businesses enrolled in Going Green & Going Smart (in English & Spanish).

53

Small business owners added sustainable practices.

\$155,000

Secured in capital funding.



ENVIRONMENT

901

Trees planted.

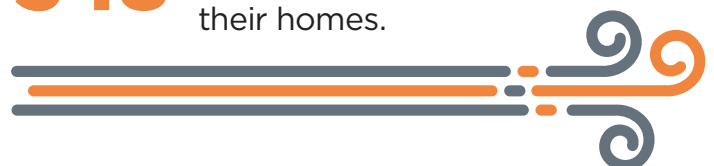
17

Title I schools, rural areas, cities and towns planted trees.

WOOD FOR LIFE

348

Hopi and **Navajo** households received wood to heat their homes.





ARTS AND CULTURE

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

69 Arts & Culture organizations.

350 Youth provided with free music education.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

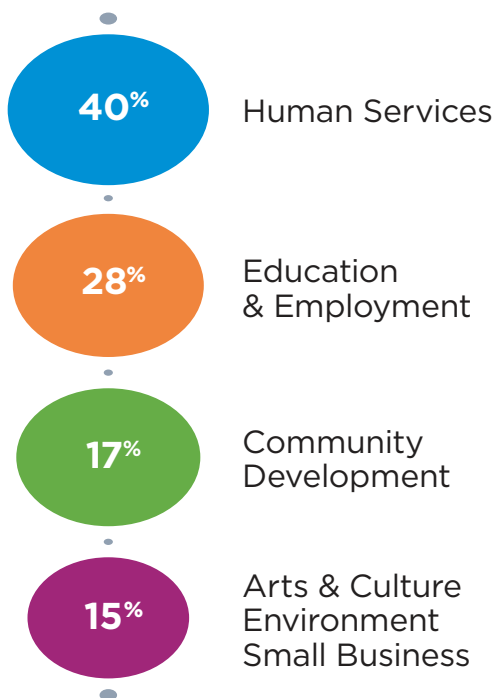
APS VOLUNTEERISM

6,317 APS Employees + **95,669** Hours volunteered @ **300+** Events statewide = **\$3 MILLION** Value of hours volunteered

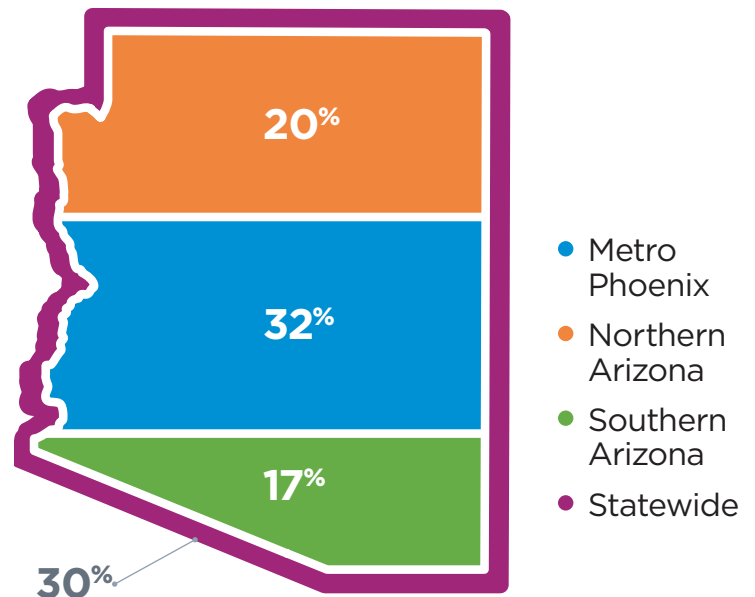


2024 APS COMMUNITY IMPACT

PHILANTHROPIC GIVING



REGIONS OF SUPPORT



Philanthropic giving distribution is not inclusive of the APS Community Fund at Arizona Community Foundation.

