

**SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.**  
**SFY19 CSBG DISCRETIONARY FUNDS SPECIAL PROJECT**

**PROJECT NAME:** Southeastern Arizona Community Action Program, Inc.  
IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)

**PROGRAM YEAR:** July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

**PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION:** SEACAP has hosted and maintained VITA sites in Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties for the last 12 years using only agency staff. SEACAP travels to remote rural areas providing this service to families that would otherwise not have access to. This program has been supported with the use of unrestricted agency funds for salaries, equipment, training and supplies. SEACAP will not be able to use these unrestricted agency funds to support the VITA sites for tax season 2018 due to the expected agency reduction of federal/state funds in SFY19.

**GOAL:** To host and maintain SEACAP VITA sites in Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties in providing free income tax preparation and e-filing for low-income families. Also to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit on EITC Awareness Day.

**ULTIMATE EXPECTED OUTCOME:** Employment:

1. Number of tax returns created to increase opportunities for people to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refund.
2. Percent increase of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds.
3. Number of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Awareness promotions is increased.

Education & Cognitive Development:

1. Number of tax returns created to increase opportunities for people to claim the Child Tax Credit (CTC).
2. Percent increase of the Child Tax Credit (CTC).
3. Number of Child Tax Credit (CTC) Awareness promotion is increased.

Infrastructure & Asset Building:

1. Number of existing VITA sites are made accessible to the identified communities.
2. Percent increase in the number of income taxes completed.

**IDENTIFIED COMMUNITIES:** Graham County:

Safford, Thatcher, Pima, Solomon, Ft. Thomas, Bylas, San Carlos, Eden, Central, San Jose & Bonita

Greenlee County:

Clifton, York, Morenci, Loma Linda, Duncan, Verde Lee & Franklin

Santa Cruz County:

Nogales, Rio Rico, Tubac, Carmen, Tumacacori, Amado, Patagonia, Sonoita, Elgin

Southern Cochise County:

Bisbee, Naco, Hereford, McNeal, Double Adobe, Palominas, Tombstone, Douglas, Elfrida, Pirtleville, Sierra Vista, Huachuca City & Whetstone.

Northern Cochise County:

Willcox, Sunsites, Sunizona, Bowie, San Simon, Portal, Cochise, Pearce, Benson, St. David, Dragoon, Vail, Pomerene & Cascabel.

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** Local offices: Monday – Thursday; 7:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Satellite Locations: Massive Intake day schedule; 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Non-Satellite Locations: Scheduled Fridays / Saturdays; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**PARTNERSHIP TYPE:** Independent CAA initiative with multi-partner participation.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** SEACAP has developed partnerships (listed below) that provide the use of their facilities as an in-kind donation towards the VITA program.

1. Town of Clifton
2. Duncan Heights Rural Housing
3. St. Vincent de Paul
4. Oscar Yrun Community Center
5. Salvation Army
6. Patagonia Senior Center
7. Benson City Hall
8. Bowie High School
9. San Simon High School
10. Sunsites VFW
11. Elfrida Fire Department
12. Naco Fire Department
13. San Carlos Apache Gold Casino
14. Bylas Community Center
15. Peridot Administration Office
16. Bonita School District
17. Town of Duncan
18. Tubac Senior Center
19. Coronado Vista Senior Apartments
20. Huachuca City Senior Apartments

**STRATEGY:** Employment - Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Promotion  
Education & Cognitive Development – Child Tax Credit (CTC) Promotion  
Infrastructure & Asset Building – Maintain & Host Income Tax Preparation Site

**IMPACT OF OUTCOMES:** The continued hosting and maintaining of SEACAP VITA sites will provide income tax services to 250+ low-income families. SEACAP will also participate in activities to promote EITC and CTC such as news releases, letters to the editors, hosting an EITC/CTC event with local leaders, community events, etc. These services provide low-income families with the opportunity to get information they need to qualify for the Child Tax Credit as well as the Earned Income Tax Credit refund. These refunds help the local community's economy. In the past, SEACAP has provided over \$ 1,000,000 in refunds for the 4 county area every year. In addition, the services provided by SEACAP VITA sites extend to the most remote, rural areas in the 4 counties thus, making these services available to the residents of these communities.

**FINAL STATUS:** Apply for the IRS VITA Grant Program in March 2019 for 2019 tax year. The program is currently closed as the funds for tax years 2017 & 2018 were awarded to 200 partners in August 2017.