



**JUST
COMMUNITIES
ARIZONA**



COMMUNITY SAFETY INCUBATOR REPORT

Agua para el Pueblo
Community Water
Stations



*September,
2025*

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www.justcommunitiesarizona.org

ABOUT JCA

MISSION: To create, foster, and resource community-based models for safety and justice outside the punishment system.

We work with people impacted by the punishment system to promote a holistic view of safety that encompasses physical, emotional, and economic health and wellness; cultivate the next generation of community leaders; and build community-based solutions.

Community Safety Incubator Projects

Goal: To invest in projects or services identified by neighborhood residents as solutions to the problems they face in order to increase safety and wellbeing of all community members.



Incubator Projects are designed to:

1. Generate dialogue, engagement, and cohesion in neighborhoods.
2. Invest in interventions, projects, and programs that increase community safety for all.
3. Strengthen, expand, and replicate holistic approaches to community safety that already exist in our neighborhoods.
4. Increase the capacity and sustainability of community-based organizations and initiatives that represent and serve under-resourced communities that have experienced high rates of arrest and incarceration.



COMMUNITY WATER STATIONS

Location: Multiple Locations, Tucson AZ

Community Safety Team Members: Tate Williams, Liz Casey, Angelantonio Breault

Project Consultant: Agua para el Pueblo

Project Duration: Summer, 2025

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Community Water stations are simply a 5-gallon cooler filled with ice water, paper cups, and a trash can, placed in an accessible public-facing location to offer cold water to all Tucsonans throughout the summer months
- Hosts agree to clean and refill the station daily, keep cups stocked, and remove trash.
- Pueblito in the Park on May 3, 2025 to bring together the community to learn more about community water stations and how to become a host
- Outreach to Tucson businesses, nonprofits, and churches to host water Stations
- Materials for over 30 water stations: Coolers, stands, cups, trash cans.



WATER IS SAFETY

Agua Para el Pueblo is a mutual aid project setting up Community Water Stations across Tucson to provide free drinking water to anyone who needs it.

Stations are hosted outside of local nonprofits, businesses, churches, and private homes, accessible to the public and strategically placed to serve unhoused Tucsonans and anyone else struggling to stay hydrated in the desert heat. This is a decentralized effort run by organizers, station hosts, and volunteers.

Each station consists of a five-gallon insulated water cooler, a metal stand, cup dispenser with paper cups, trash bin, and a cable and lock to secure it all in place. Some have crates where reusable bottles are dropped off, free for anyone to then take. Others are stocked with donated items like sunscreen, hygiene supplies, and clothes. Hosts and volunteers maintain the stations, filling them with ice and water, restocking cups, and cleaning.



Dual Water Station

Media Coverage

Tucson Spotlight:

<https://www.tucsonspotlight.org/agua-para-el-pueblo-project-expands-free-summer-water-stations/>

KGUN: <https://www.kgun9.com/news/local-news/water-for-the-people-agua-para-el-pueblo-stations-making-ice-cold-water-accessible-to-all>

Arizona Luminaria:

<https://azluminaria.org/2025/08/09/these-stations-are-offering-free-cold-drinking-water-to-tucsonans-in-desert-heat/>

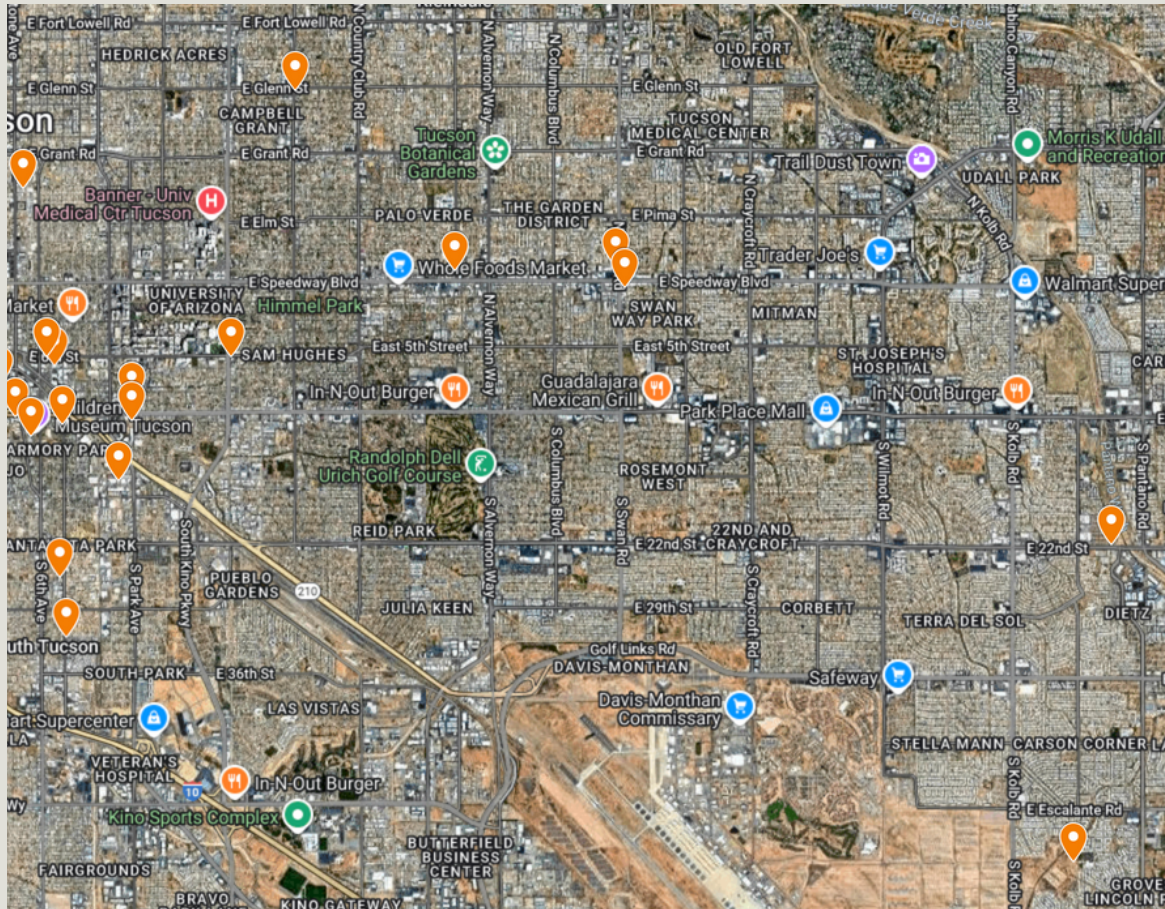


Water station at Ben's Bells downtown



Water station at Dirty Tamarindo

WATER IS SAFETY



This is a partial map showing the locations of some of the 32 water stations around Tucson (marked with orange tabs)



BICAS Water Station

Testimonial: BICAS

"The simple introduction of a water station had meaningful impacts at the BICAS shop. Neighbors would bike hard in the heat to get here and fill up their bottles upon arrival. People talked to each other, shared that this resource was here. And even went out of their way to tell BICAS staff how nice it was to have this station- how being able to count on there being free fresh cool water has helped them to stay hydrated. It is cheaper to buy a 'polar pop' of soda to cool down than a bottle of water- this station means so much to our neighbors."



Social Media post from a water station host

IMPACT

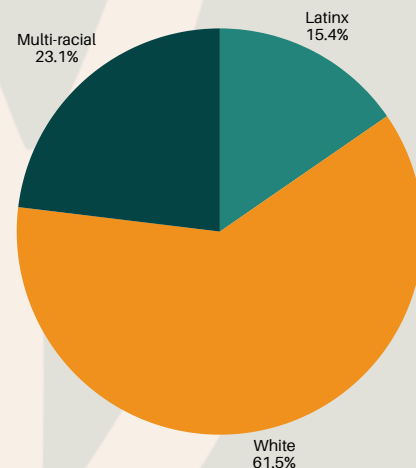
At each Incubator site we offer up a survey to participants--whether they are members of the Community Safety Team, volunteers who help with the project, or just neighbors who attend events.

We collected a total of 13 surveys from participants (primarily hosts). Collecting surveys from water station users proved very difficult, as most did not stay long and were understandably reluctant to answer questions.

WHO WAS SERVED?

Survey responses show that slightly over half of respondents identified as white, with about 40% being BIPOC.

Just over half of (61.5%) of respondents have been personally impacted by the criminal punishment system, with **38% reporting they themselves had been arrested.**



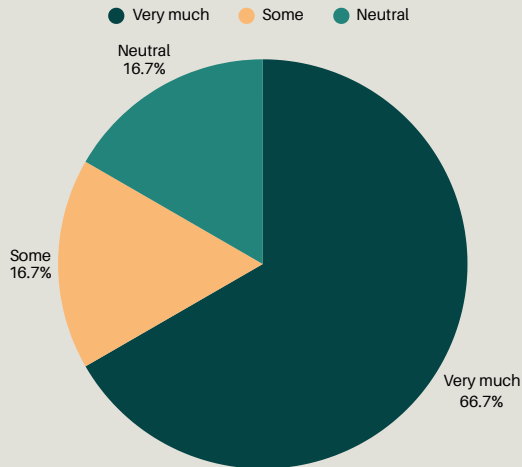
Hosts did provide **observational data on the population using the water stations:**

- “Unhoused folks use it, but so do folks walking their dogs in the evening and kids riding bikes through the hood. Tourists stop for a sip.”
- “All sorts of community members use it. Folks doing laundry at the laundry mat nearby, folks walking from the apartments to the grocery store, homeless folks, etc. A lot of people also use it for they dogs, and we often see birds drinking from the dog bowl we leave there.”

IMPACT



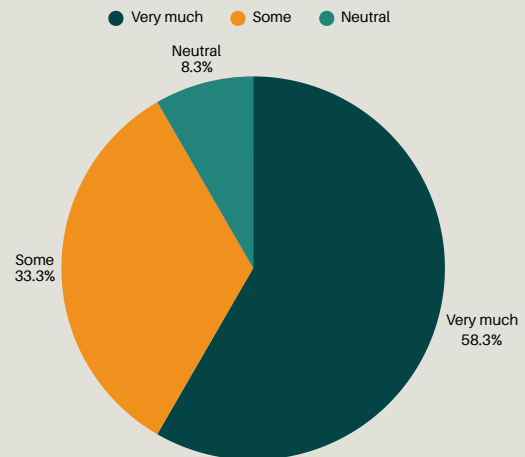
This project/activity made me feel safer in my neighborhood



SAFETY:

The majority (77%) of respondents said **the project made them feel safer in their neighborhood.**

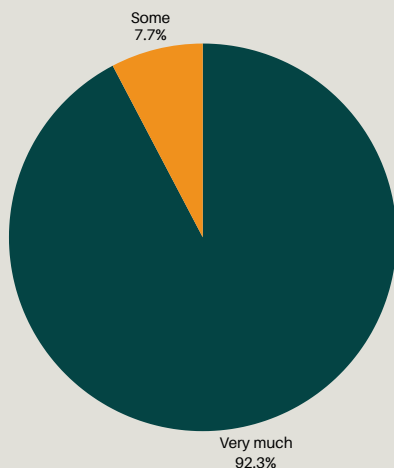
This project/activity helped me get to know my neighbors better



HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

100% of respondents said that **the project will contribute to better health and wellness in their community.**

This project/event made me feel proud of my neighborhood



SENSE OF PRIDE:

Respondents overwhelmingly (92%) reported **that the project mad them feel proud of their community.**

FEEDBACK



“
increasing access to
life saving water
during dangerously
high temps

“ It has reduced
medical emergencies
in our area and
taken the pressure
off of businesses to
provide water to
people ”

“
Symbolically I feel like it
says “we don’t need to know
you to care about your
wellbeing” and I think it’s a
visual reminder that our
neighborhood cares about
everyone in the community.

“
It has also help form
bonds between hosts and
community members,
and sent a message that
as a community, we take
care of each other!

“
I hear all the time how
much everyone
appreciates that we
have the water station
outside our business ”



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OF HEALTH SERVICES

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