

Powering CHWs in Rural

The Rural Arizona CHW Workforce Development Network in Action

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Who is in our audience today?

How many of you are CHWs, Promotores or CHRs?

How many of you work with an organization that employs CHWs?



Who is in our audience today?

What rural communities are represented here today?



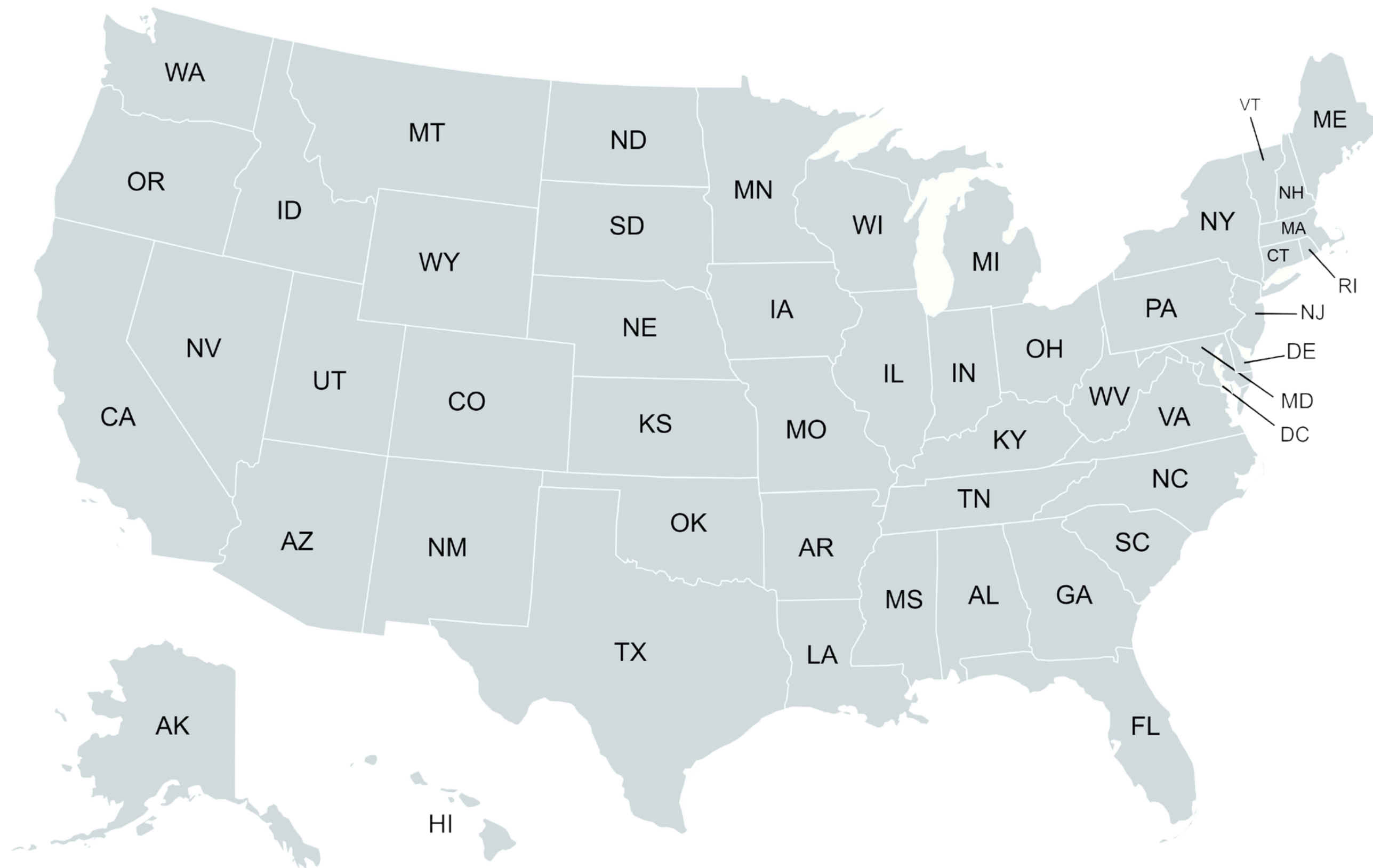
Who is in our audience today?

How many of you belong to some type of CHW coalition or network?

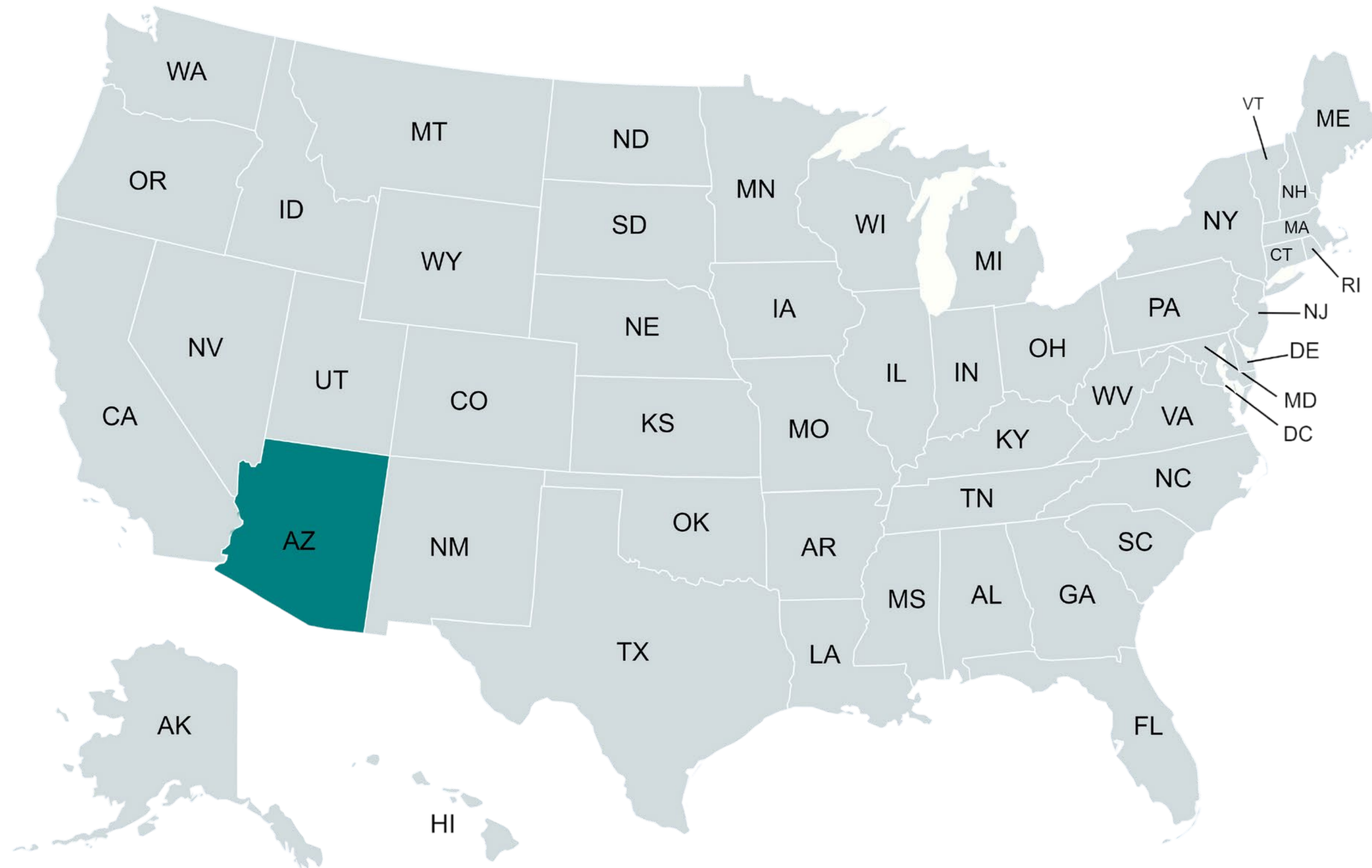
Which ones?



The National CHW Scene

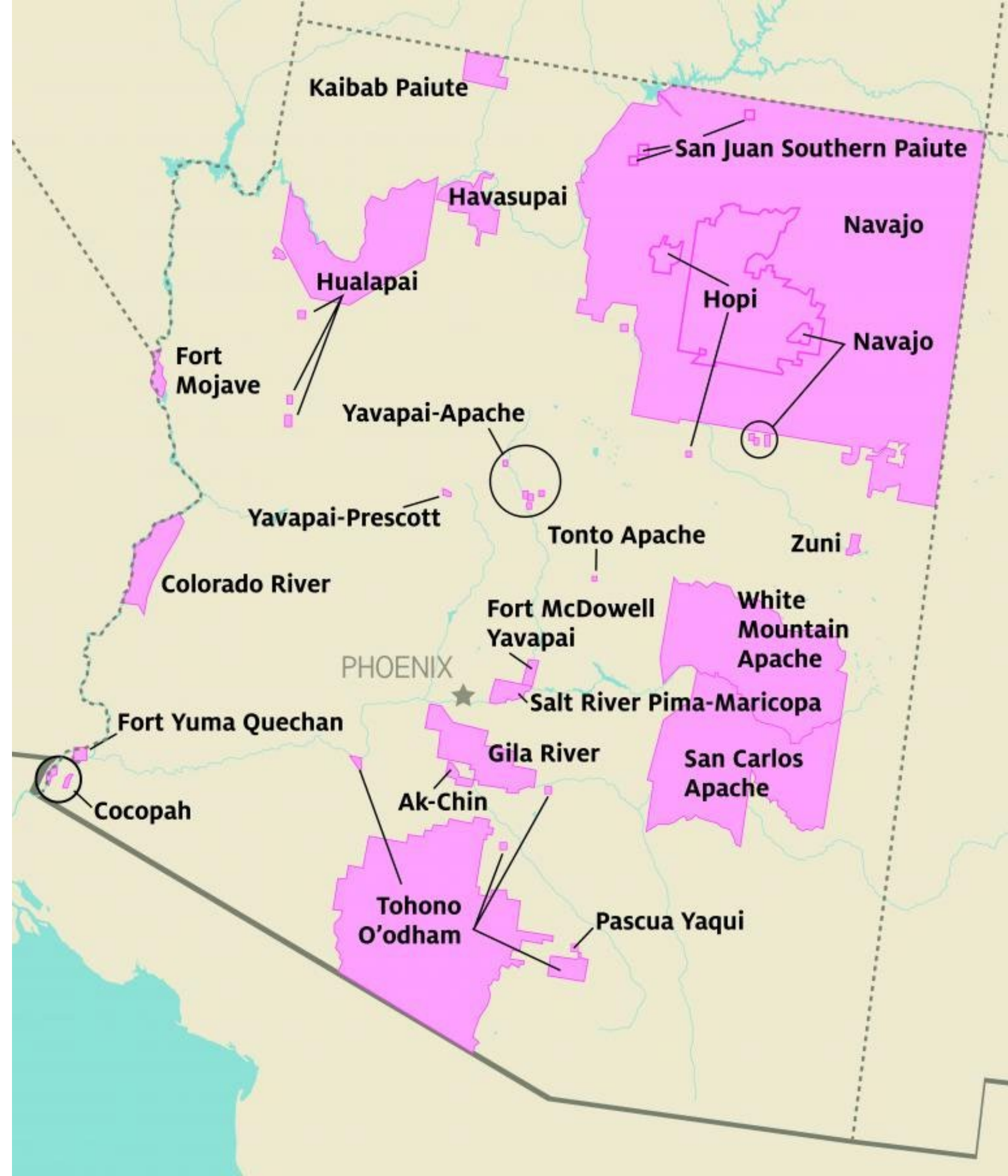


Where does Arizona fit in the national CHW scene?



Why RAzCHOW?

- Arizona is a large state that has BIG swaths of rural
- Arizona's Mexico border is mostly rural
- Arizona's 22 Indian Nations are mostly rural



A photograph of a desert landscape during the "golden hour" of sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, several tall saguaro cacti stand among low-lying desert shrubs and grasses. The middle ground shows a vast, open desert plain. In the background, a large, rugged mountain with prominent red rock formations is silhouetted against a sky filled with soft, glowing clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and iconic of the Arizona desert.

When did the first CHW program begin in Arizona?

Why RAzCHOW?

AzCHOW worked with a small group of partners to create RAzCHOW to help rural communities and health care providers effectively utilize CHWs as an evidence-based model



How?

- ▶ 2018--awarded a HRSA FORHP Rural Health Network Planning Grant (1 yr.)
- ▶ 2020--awarded a HRSA FORHP Rural Health Care Network Development Grant (3 Yrs.)



RAzCHOW is celebrating!!

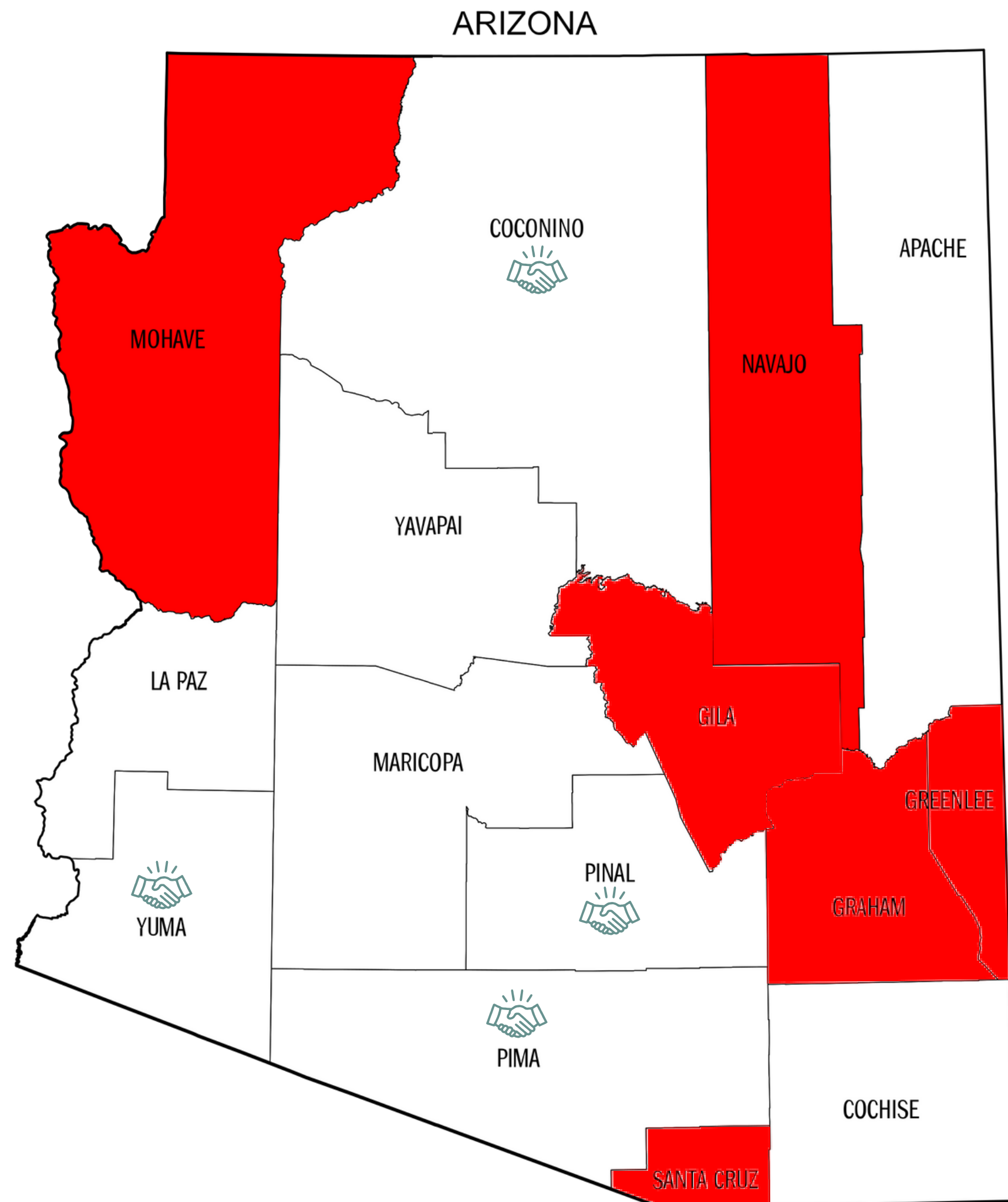
Another FORHP Network Development
Grant (4 years--2023-2027)



RAzCHOW is a statewide vertical network

We now have 14 member organizations

- 6 of Arizona's 8 fully-rural counties
- 11 rural census tracts in 4 non-rural counties



Member Types

- Statewide CHW Association
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (4)
- County Health Departments (2)
- Behavioral Health Organization
- Community-based Organizations (4)
- Statewide American Indian Advisory Council
- State Health Department



Our Allies & TA Partners

- University of Arizona Prevention Research Center
- Northern Arizona University Center for Health Equity Research
- Arizona Complete Health (Statewide Medicaid-contracted Health Plan)



What is the Profile of Most of Arizona's Rural CHWs?

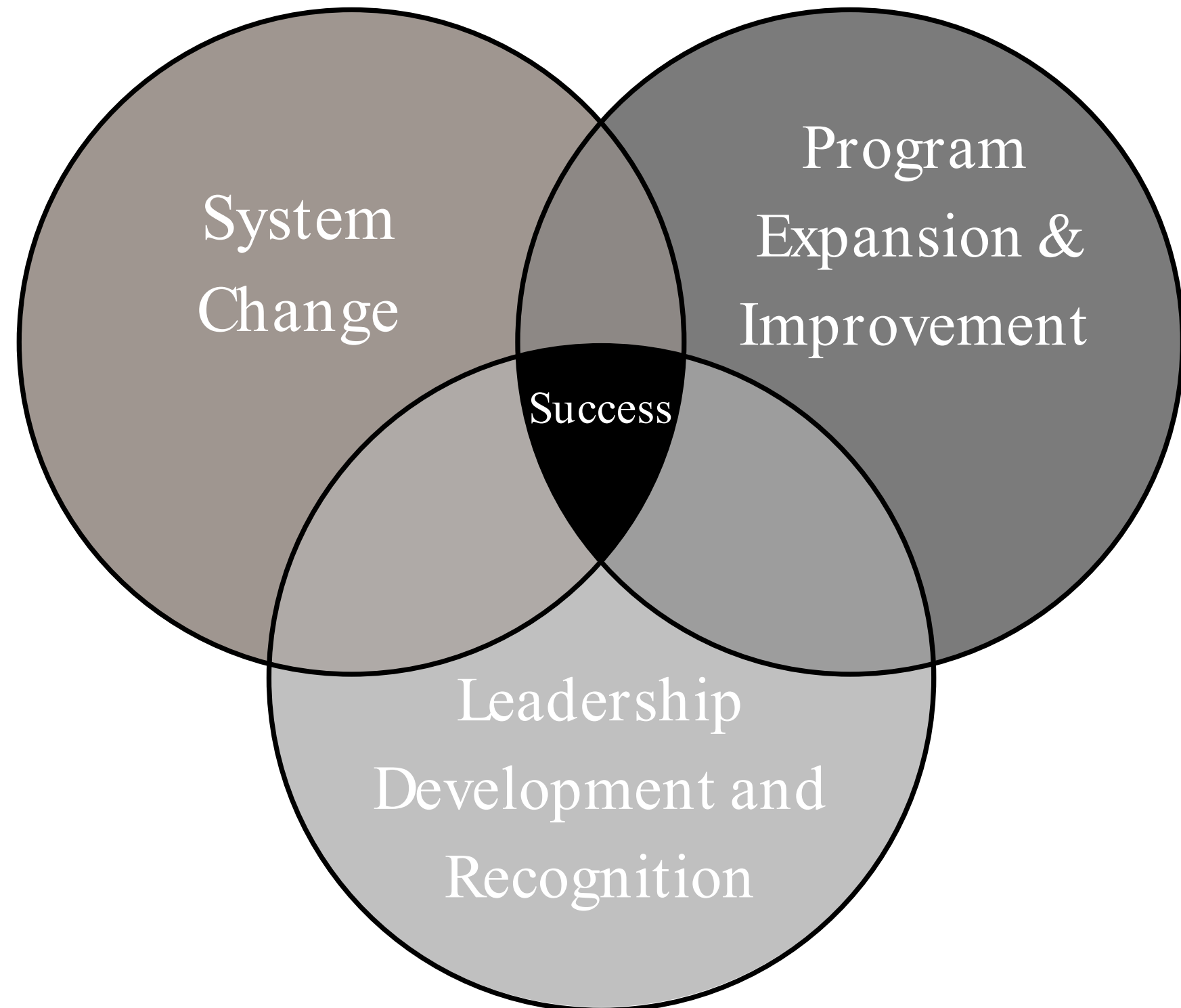
- Promotores de Salud that serve Hispanic/Latino communities
- Community Health Representatives (CHRs) that serve American Indian communities



We Address 3 Focus Areas for all CHWs in Rural Arizona

- System change
- Program expansion and improvement
- Leadership development

RAzCHOW Scope
2023-2027



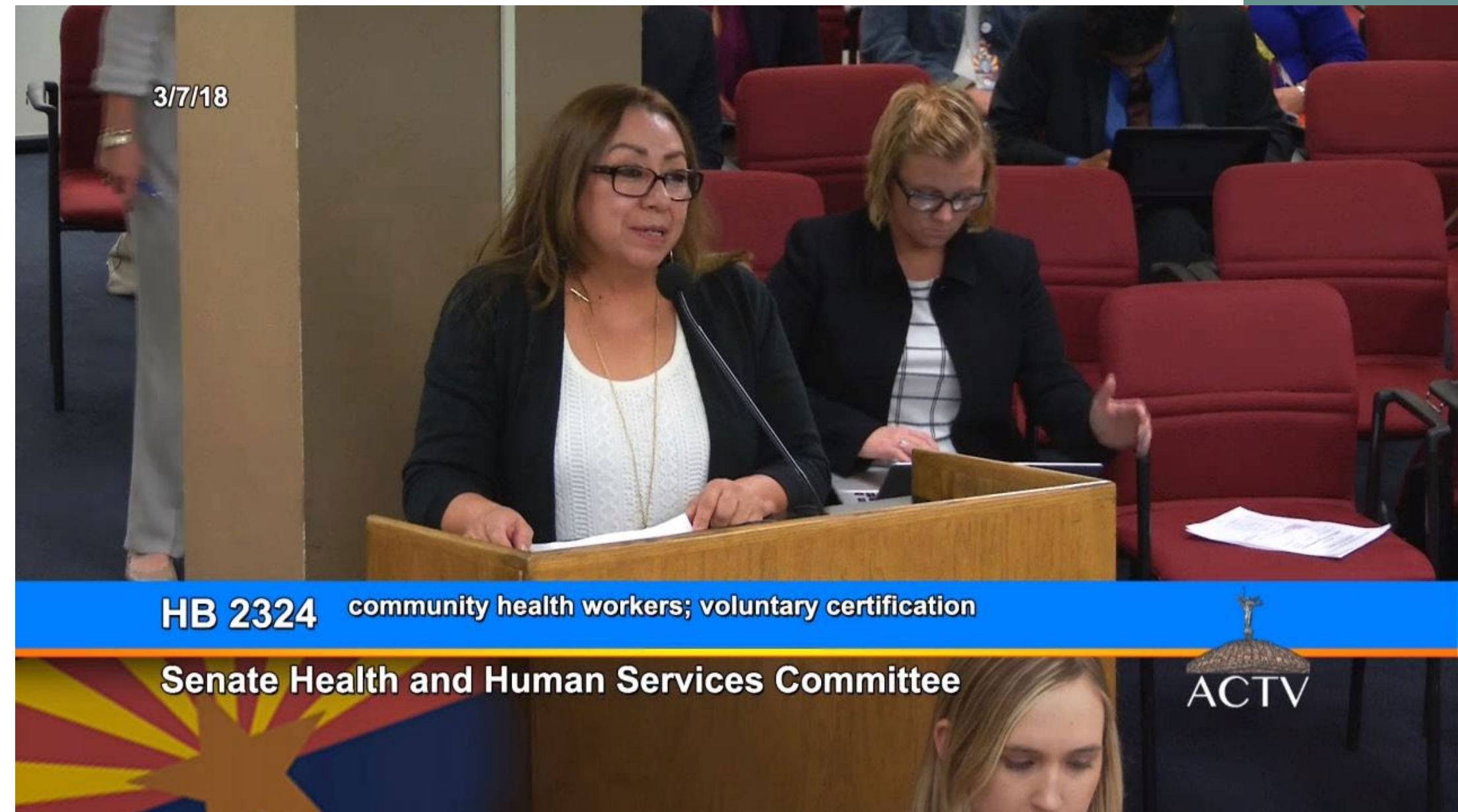
Our Strategies

- CHW core competency training
- Other CHW training
- Training for CHW supervisors and administrators
- Assistance with development of CHW training programs
- Peer education and coaching
- Advocacy for policy change

Bringing the Voice of Rural Arizona to Policy Change

CHW Voluntary Certification (licensing)

- Passed into law in 2018
- Administered by the Arizona Department of Health Services
- Went live in November 2022



Helping Rural CHWs become certified

- Guidance for the on-line application process in English only
- Assistance with documentation necessary for eligibility
- Advocacy for certification cost reduction



Bringing the Voice of Rural Arizona to Policy Change

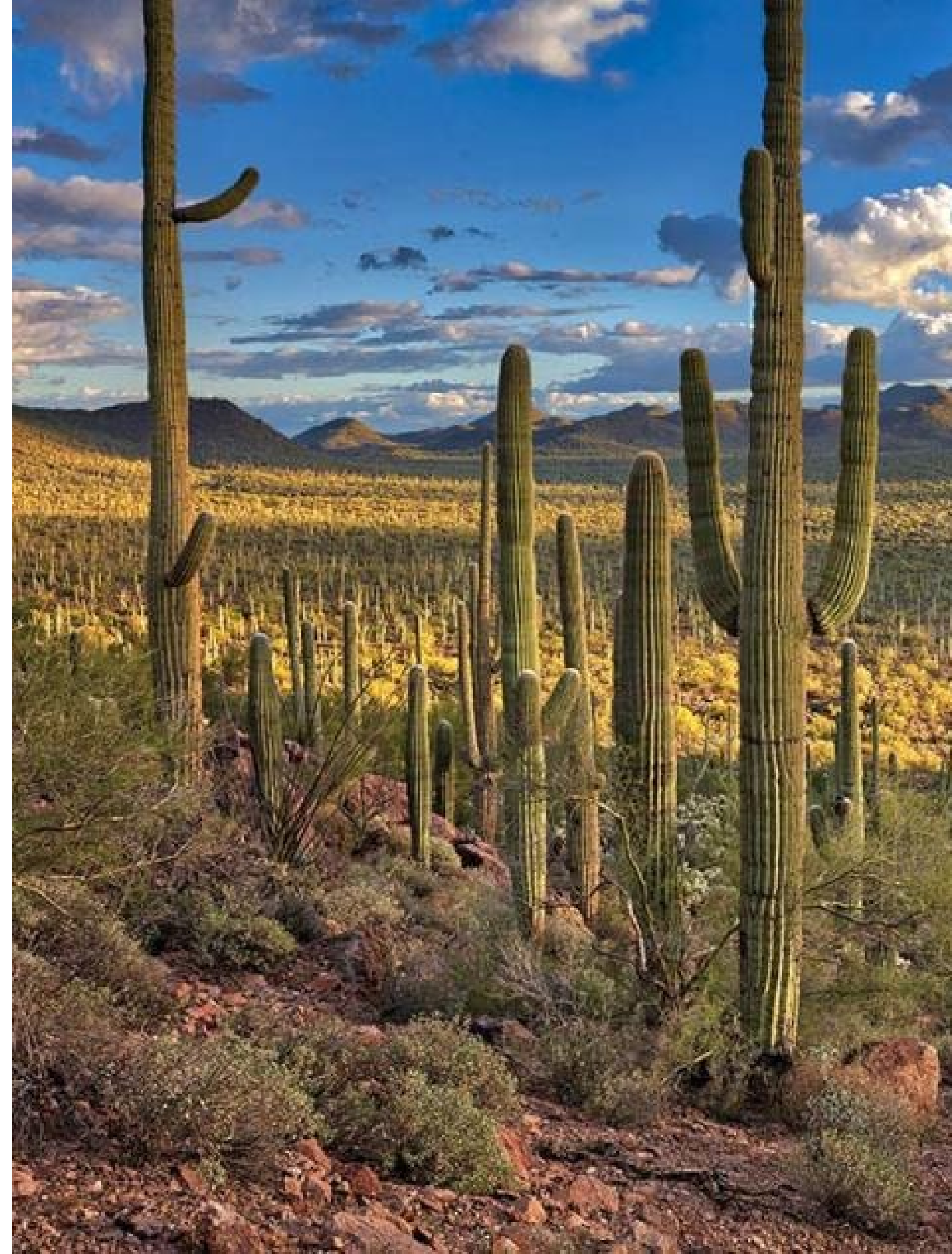
Medicaid reimbursement for certified CHW services

- AHCCCS waiver approved by CMS in February 2023
- Phase 1 - reimbursement open to existing AHCCCS clinical contractors in April 2023
- Phase 2 - reimbursement will be open to non-clinical community-based organizations



Success Stories

Development of a tool for Network partners to self-assess readiness to develop a CHW program or enhance CHW services



Success Stories

Process for organizations
to be approved a CHW
training programs



Success Stories

Site visits among
Network partners to
learn best practices in
CHW supervision and
training



How can RAzCHOW help?

- You as a CHW?
- Your rural organization?
- Your rural community?



Thank you for your interest!

Questions?

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