



Yuma County has a year-round population of approximately 200,000 residents. During the winter, the population increases by about 90,000 due to the sun-seeking Winter Visitors affectionately known as "Snowbirds"

Yuma County is bordered by California on the West and Mexico on the South. Living close to the Mexican border offers a great opportunity Yuma County is larger than the state of Connecticut. Much of Yuma County's 5,522 square miles is desert land accented by rugged mountains. Several river valley regions, however, contain an abundance of arable land which is irrigated with water from the Colorado River. unity to experience multi-cultural and international business opportunities.

Farming, cattle raising, tourism, and two military bases, US Marine Corp Air Station (MCAS) and US Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) are Yuma County's principal industries.

La Paz County was established in 1983 after voters approved separating the northern portion of Yuma County, making it the only county to be established after Arizona became a state in 1912, and currently the second youngest county in the United States La Paz County in the north and a new "Yuma County" in the south.

La Paz County (Spanish: *Condado de La Paz*) is the 15th county in the U.S. state of Arizona, located in the western part of the state. As of the 2020 census, its population was 16,557, making it the second-least populous county in Arizona. The county seat is Parker.

The name of the county is the Spanish word for "the peace", and is taken from the early settlement (now ghost town) of La Paz along the Colorado River.

Services Maximizing Independent Living and Empowerment (SMILE) is a Center for Independent Living, Est. 1998 one of only five in Arizona. The term “center for independent living” means a consumer controlled, community based, cross disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and provides an array of independent living services as amended from Section 702 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Centers for Independent Living (CIL) provide independent living (IL) core services to individuals with a significant disability, regardless of age, income or disability type. This includes services to children and youth with disabilities.

SMILE Mission

Empowering Individuals with Disabilities to Maximize Independence





Transportation:

A Hispanic male in his late 50s came into the office to apply for transportation so they can get to and from his medical appointments. He came into the office to let us know that he was approved for Yuma County Transit On call services.



Social Security Benefits

“Consumer in her 60s came into office to work on her application for Social security disability. After 17 years’ consumer stated we were the only ones who actually help her. She called the office to let us know she has finally received her social security benefits

Senior Nutrition:

“A female in her 60s came into the office to inquire information for ESAP elderly nutrition assistance. We submitted application and she came back to tell us she was approved. It changed her ability to eat more meals and having the correct foods for her health”.

Youth Transition

“A transitional Youth came into SMILE office on needing support for Disability Benefits turning 18 and receiving two types of Social Security benefits Social Security was going to remove her disability benefits because of her age of 18.

SMILE staff submitted appeal request to continue her benefits under social security rules of for youth in transition that are turning 18 and are still in school. SMILE support her on the appeal process, her appeal was favorable and was able to continue benefits, and continue her educational goals.





Arizona Education Empowerment Institute



We are never alone, with our Community Partners we continue bringing
Magical Process of
The Independent Living Philosophy & Culture