



## PINAL COUNTY

WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY

**Proposition 202 Tribal Gaming  
Application Sponsorship/Support Form  
Requesting Pinal County serve as the Fiscal Agent/Pass Through Entity**

**Name of the Tribal Community:** Ak-Chin Indian Community

**Due date of the application to the Tribal community:** July 7, 2023

The following information will be used by Pinal County to 1) send the resolution and grant documents for the applicant to submit to the Tribal community, 2) send the funds, if awarded.

**Name of the Non-profit:** Foundation for Blind Children

**Contact person/title:** Brianna Makos

**Email address:** bmakos@seeitourway.org

**Address:** 1234 E Northern Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020

**Project name:** Braille Textbooks for Blind or Visually Impaired Students

**Amount being requested:** \$25,000

**Project summary:** Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) seeks \$25,000 to purchase 10 braille textbooks for elementary and high school age students who are blind or visually impaired. These will be unduplicated books, not currently in our library, and will be purchased from an existing supply rather than be commissioned. Through this project, our students will have access to the same accurate and effective learning materials as their sighted peers.

**Beneficiaries:**

Arizona students who are blind or visually impaired in elementary and high school will be served by the project. 15 students will be served in the first year and the textbooks will be available for use by students each year thereafter.

**Supervisor District:** FBC serves all five districts in Pinal County.

The undersigns hereby certifies they have read and comply with the responsibilities set forth in the PINAL COUNTY TRIBAL GAMING GRANT PROGRAM  
Request for fiscal agent/pass through support documentation.

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Marc Ashton, Chief Executive Officer

## 2023 Ak-Chin Indian Community Grant Application Cover Sheet

Name of Applicant: Foundation for Blind Children		Applicant is a: <input type="checkbox"/> City/Town/County (circle) x Other: <u>501(c)(3)</u>	
Mayor/Supervisor/Chairman/President: Marc Ashton, Chief Executive Officer			
Contact Person and Title: Brianna Makos, Community Relations Manager			
Applicant Address (administrative office): 1234 E Northern Ave.			
City: Phoenix		Zip Code: 85020	
Applicant Mailing Address (if different): N/A			
City:		Zip Code:	
Phone Number:		Fax Number:	
E-mail Address:			
Fiscal Agent for any Applicant that is not a City, Town, or County ( <i>Special Taxing Districts/Fire Districts must have a Fiscal Agent</i> )			
Contact Person: Heather Patel, Grants Administrator			
City/Town/County Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1348			
City: Florence		Zip Code: 85132	
Phone Number: (520) 866-06422		Fax Number: N/A	
E-mail Address: <a href="mailto:heather.patel@pinal.gov">heather.patel@pinal.gov</a>		<a href="mailto:grants@pinal.gov">grants@pinal.gov</a>	

Program or Project Name: Braille Textbooks for Blind or Visually Impaired Students	
Purpose (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education <input type="checkbox"/> public safety <input type="checkbox"/> health <input type="checkbox"/> environment <input type="checkbox"/> promotion of commerce <input type="checkbox"/> economic and community development	
Purpose of Grant (brief statement):	
Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) will purchase 10 braille textbooks, at a cost of \$2,500 per book, for Arizona students who are blind or visually impaired. The braille textbooks will be used to teach students in FBC's elementary and high school programs.	
Beginning and Ending Date of Program or Project: 07/01/23 to 06/20/24	
Amount Requested: \$25,000	Total Cost: \$25,000
Geographic Area Served: Pinal County and Arizona	

By the execution of this Grant Application the undersigned agrees that the information contained in this Application is true, to the best of the Applicant's knowledge. The Applicant shall notify the Community if any information in this Application changes.

Signature:



For the Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 5/22/23

Typed/Printed Name and Title: Marc Ashton, Chief Executive Officer

For the Fiscal Agent: N/A Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(If applicable)

Typed/Printed Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## **A. Purpose of Grant.**

- 1. Describe the proposed program, project or purchase (collectively, the “Project”). This description should identify the needs/issues the Project will address.**

Foundation for Blind Children respectfully requests a grant of \$25,000 for the purchase of braille textbooks for elementary and high school age students who are blind or visually impaired. Support from the Ak-Chin Indian Community will provide 10 braille textbooks for Arizona youth to ensure they have accessible learning materials. Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) is pursuing the most economical way to provide these books; it is most cost efficient to buy existing books than commission copies.

Our students deserve access to the same accurate and effective learning materials as their sighted classmates. 89% of teachers of the blind agree that braille should be the foundation of learning, to be supplemented by assistive technology. According to the National Federation of the Blind, braille literacy correlates to higher educational levels, higher likelihood of employment and higher income. Blind or visually impaired students, and especially students that have a passion for math and science, need braille textbooks. These allow for math equations or images like a DNA strand to be shown in a tactile format, the same way books in written language convey information to their sighted peers.

Without FBC’s initiative in securing these books, blind students must wait for copies to be created on-demand. This is not only time consuming, but printing a new book is costlier than buying an existing copy. Making braille widely available to all who need it aligns with our vision of a world where vision loss becomes simply a diagnosis and not a disability.

- 2. Identify the target population that will be served by the Project. (Who will benefit? How many will be served? Is there a targeted geographic location? Etc.)**

Arizona students in elementary and high school who are blind or visually impaired will be served by the project. With the purchase of 10 textbooks, 15 students will be served in the first year and the textbooks will be available for use by students each year thereafter. The textbooks will be housed in FBC’s Phoenix location, but will be available to students in surrounding counties.

- 3. Describe the Project goals and objectives and outline a plan to meet these goals.**

FBC’s short-term project goal is to purchase 10 braille textbooks, in subjects not currently in our library or available locally, for use by blind or visually impaired students. The longer-term goal of the project is for these students to receive the same learning opportunities, academic success, and employment options as their sighted peers. Nationally, 70% of blind adults are unemployed. FBC adult graduates have an astonishing 11% unemployment rate; we are even seeing a drop in that percentage.

FBC's plan to meet these goals include securing funding for purchase of the books, coordinating with a printing house to buy the books our students need, adding the books to our Media Center, and circulating the books as requested by students and teachers.

FBC will evaluate the success of our project by the timely purchase of needed textbooks and ensuring the books are well cared for so that dozens of students have access to important learning materials for the 2023-24 academic year and beyond. We will also follow up with students and teachers at the end of the grant term to ask how the project worked for them and to gather any feedback they would like to offer.

**4. *Provide a timetable for implementation of the Project.***

FBC will coordinate with the American Printing House for the Blind to purchase textbooks once awarded. We will place purchase orders within the first month of the grant term with anticipated delivery within four months. Textbooks will be cataloged upon receipt by the FBC Media Center Director and staff. Textbooks will then be available for circulation for and use by students during the 2023-24 school year and for the remainder of the one-year grant term.

**B. Resources.**

**1. *Identify current funding sources for the Project and characterize each funding source listed as either a one-time-only or long-term funding source.***

FBC has not applied for other grants for this project, as it is a one-time investment that will be fully funded with an award from the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

**2. *Identify other organizations or partners that are participating in or contributing to the Project, but which are not funding sources, and describe their roles or contributions.***

FBC partners with students' teachers and the school districts they attend to determine which textbooks are needed and to ensure students have access to them. We also partner with the American Printing House for the Blind for adaptive technology.

**3. *Define the Project as a new or continuing project or a purchase. Provide information about how the Project will be sustained or the purchase will be maintained after the grant funding is exhausted.***

The project is a one-time purchase. No additional funding is required to maintain the textbooks; however, FBC will ensure each book has a long usable life by careful handling and storage overseen by the Media Center staff.

**4. *If the Applicant organization has requested funding from any other Arizona tribe, please list:***  
**a. *Pending requests made within the last eighteen (18) months, including the name of the tribe to which the request was made and a brief summary of the project for which a grant was requested.***

FBC is applying to the Tohono O’odham Nation for funds to purchase additional braille textbooks.

- b. Funded requests made in the last five (5) years, including the name of the tribe that awarded the funding, a brief summary of the project for which the funding was awarded, and the amount of the funding received.***

FBC has not been funded or requested funding from any tribes in the last five years.

***C. Reports. Approved grantees must report back to the Community about the use of all grants. Outline how your organization will account for and manage the funding if selected. Describe how Project progress and results will be tracked and documented.***

FBC will maintain records of purchase for each textbook. The Director of Media and Development will maintain a record of receipt, location, and circulation of each textbook. FBC will report this information to the Ak-Chin Indian Community per terms of an award.

***D. Budget. Provide a budget, including justification, that supports the request in the Application. Provide an estimated timeline for when funds will be expended.***

Program Budget	Expenses	Amount requested from Ak-Chin Indian Community	Amount funded by other sources
Staff Salaries & Expenses			
Professional & Contracted Services			
Mileage			
Rent			
Program Equipment/Supplies	\$25,000	\$25,000	
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	

***E. Additional information. Please provide any additional information about the Project or the Applicant organization that the Ak-Chin Council should know when considering the Application.***

In 1952, The Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) was founded in Phoenix, Arizona by parents of blind children. We started with one teacher and four students. Today we have 140 staff, 2,000 students, and are the only nonprofit in Arizona that serves all ages of blind and visually impaired individuals with 13 different programs. Our youngest students are babies and our oldest is currently 103.

We have grown to the largest preschool for blind children in the country, and the largest braille library in the country. FBC raises the expectations of parents, students, teachers, and the community. We encourage parents to push their children to achievement. We

create opportunities for students to go above the ordinary and gain confidence to do well in school and go on to work.

FBC is all about forward looking innovation and real outcomes. We solve chronic social problems. Examples of our initiatives are securing braille embossers that work like a printer to make classroom handouts and tests available to students quickly, and founding an undergraduate degree program at Arizona State University to address the 30% vacancy in teachers for the visually impaired. We are currently working to innovate a new transportation system to address the driver shortage and inefficient bussing for our students across multiple school districts.

On behalf of our staff, Board of Directors, and the community we serve, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to apply for funding. Thank you for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Marc Ashton  
Chief Executive Officer



ATLANTA GA 39901-0001

In reply refer to: 0752794674  
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FOUNDATION FOR BLIND CHILDREN  
1234 E NORTHERN AVE  
PHOENIX AZ 85020-4274

023679

Employer ID number: 86-0129981  
Form 990 required: Yes

Dear Taxpayer:

We're responding to your request dated Jan. 11, 2023, about your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in March 1968, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

We also show you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If you're required to file a return, you must file one of the following by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of your annual accounting period:

- Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990-EZ
- Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

According to IRC Section 6033(j), if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for 3 consecutive years, we'll revoke your tax-exempt status on the due date of the 3rd required return or notice.

You can get IRS forms or publications you need from our website at [www.irs.gov/forms-pubs](http://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs) or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.,

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FOUNDATION FOR BLIND CHILDREN  
1234 E NORTHERN AVE  
PHOENIX AZ 85020-4274

local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific time).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

*Sheralyn C. Hanks*

Sheralyn C. Hanks  
Ops. Manager, AM Ops. 3005