



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

**Name of the Tribal Community: Gila River Indian Community**

**Due date of the application to the Tribal community: April 1, 2024**

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: Central Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation**

**Contact person/title: Patti King, Executive Manager**

**Email address: pking@achievepinal.org**

**Address: 17235 N 75th Ave, Ste D-145, Glendale, AZ 85308**

**Project name: Achieve Pinal**

**Amount being requested: \$75,000**

**Project summary: Achieve Pinal literacy program (w/ AARP volunteers)**

**Beneficiaries: Pinal County seniors and 2nd/3rd grade students**

**Supervisor District: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5**

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director name and signature

Patti King, Executive Manager



## Gila River Indian Community Grant Application Grant Cycle 2024

### Cover Sheet

Click field or use up/down arrow keys to move among fields

Municipality Information	
1. Date of Application: 2/20/2024	
2. Name of City, Town or County: Pinal County	
3. Mayor (City or Town) or Board of Supervisor's Chairman (County): Mike Goodman	
4. Mailing Address: PO Box 1348	
5. City: Florence	State: Arizona Zip Code: 85132
6. Acknowledgement of Submission by Authorized Municipality Representative: Typed Name/Title: Heather Patel, Grants Administrator Email Address: heather.patel@pinal.gov Signature:	
Applicant Information	
7. Department/Organization Name: Central Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation	
8. Select Organization Type: 501c3 Non-Profit  If Non-profit please attach IRS Determination Letter	
9. Application Contact Person: Patti King Title: Executive Manager	
10. Phone Number: (520) 836-6868	
11. Mailing Address: 17235 N. 75 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite D145	
12. City: Glendale	State: Arizona Zip Code: 85308
13. Email Address: pking@achievepinal.org	Website Address: https://www.achievepinal.org/
Project Information	
14. Project Name: Achieve Pinal	
15. Purpose of Grant: Reading Program that promotes literacy skills in 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> graders	
16. Priority Funding Area	Education
17. Annual amount requested	\$25,000
18. Number of years that funding is requested	3
19. Total amount requested (annual amount x number of years)	\$75,000
20. Has your organization received past funding from GRIC? If yes, list each year and amount	Yes, in 2021 Achieve Pinal was awarded \$36,000 over three years
21. Geographic area served	Pinal County

For Office Use Only:		
Data Entry	Receipt	Evaluation
<input type="checkbox"/> Approval – Amount/Term		<input type="checkbox"/> Denial



## *Gila River Indian Community Grant Application Grant Cycle 2024*

### Narrative

Please structure your proposal to provide the following information in the order indicated. Provide the narrative in paragraph form in the text field provided. Please be thorough but strive for brevity.

#### 1. Briefly describe your organization's history, mission and goals.

Launched in 2020, Achieve Pinal is our State's collect impact model initiative focused on improving language and literacy outcomes for Arizona's children from birth to age eight, with a strategic focus on school readiness and third grade reading. The mission of Achieve Pinal is to improve the reading skills of 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students living in Pinal County, Arizona, using the proven methods developed by AARP Experience Corps. This is our way of contributing to an educated workforce, thereby disrupting the cycle of poverty. The three goals of Achieve Pinal include improving the reading skills of students, improving social-emotional learning skills, attitudes, and behaviors of students, and providing a meaningful experience and connected for seniors (volunteer tutors) in Pinal County.

#### 2. To determine eligibility for this grant, if the applying organization is non-municipal or non-profit, please describe your relationship with the supporting municipality, how this project will benefit the municipality, and the municipality's role in this project, if applicable. If the applying organization is a municipality or a municipal sub-division please enter the text "Not applicable" and go to item 3.

Achieve Pinal has expanded, originally only serving Casa Grande, to the entirety of Pinal County. Achieve Pinal still works closely with the City of Casa Grande, but now also partners with other cities in the county, like Maricopa, Florence, Coolidge, Queen Creek, San Tan, and Gold Canyon. These municipalities, along with Pinal County are tremendous supporters and advocates for the Achieve Pinal program, providing annual funding, office space, equipment, and volunteers.

#### 3. Describe the proposed project, objectives, and your plan to implement.

Using a multi-generational approach, Achieve Pinal is a community-based volunteer reading program empowering individuals over fifty from AARP's Experience Corps to serve as tutors to help students improve as readers by the end of third grade. It is a proven "triple-win", helping students exceed, older adults thrive, and communities grow stronger. Achieve Pinal employs a structured, evidence-based model that improves the overall reading ability of students by building their fluency, accuracy, and comprehension skills. Each student receives one hour of one-on-one attention from an adult over the age of fifty for 36 weeks. Tutors work with



## *Gila River Indian Community Grant Application Grant Cycle 2024*

students one-on-one for two and a half hours each week until that student is proficient in their reading skills. Through individualized attending, students become literacy proficient by the end of third grade and improve their social and emotional learning skills. To ensure the most success, Achieve Pinal targets schools in under-served communities with a high percentage of students failing to meet standardized testing benchmarks.

#### **4. Describe how the proposed project satisfies one or more of the priority funding areas identified by the Gila River Indian Community.**

The funding priority that Achieve Pinal shares with GRIC is the priority of education. GRIC defines education as “programs and projects that assist students and/or educators in achieving success in the classroom from preschool through post-secondary education; programs and projects that provide tutoring and hands-on learning, scholarship programs, museums, and any other type of educational programs”. Achieve Pinal’s Reading Program specifically targets students who fall below benchmark levels in literacy and comprehension. Through one-on-one tutoring, students receive hands-on learning opportunities that will assist students in achieving success in the classroom, thereby impacting the rest of each participant’s academic career.

#### **5. Identify the needs/problems to be addressed, target population and number of people to be served by the project.**

The pandemic has had a devastating effect on students everywhere, but more so for students who already face additional barriers before the pandemic, like rural students and those experiencing poverty. Statewide assessment data demonstrates that students in Pinal County consistently fare below statewide trends. In 2021, only 25% of the county’s students passed the statewide ELA assessment. This rebounded by 10% in 2022, with 35% of the county’s students passing the statewide assessment. Despite the improvement, Pinal students remain below pre-pandemic levels (2019: 38%) and below the state average (41%).

Research shows the pandemic decreased reading time and lowered reading scores. Studies also confirm the gap in reading achievement between low and high-performing students has widened. Students living in poverty are at an increased risk of losing their reading skills. This is concerning, given that a third of Pinal County lives at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Third-grade reading level is among the strongest predictors of future academic success and completion rates. That is because up until third grade, students



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learn to read, but following third grade, they must read to learn. So, any student below grade level after the third grade is at an exponential disadvantage for the rest of their academic career.

### 6. Define the project as a new or continuing program. Has GRIC previously funded this project?

Achieve Pinal's on-going reading program has been in operation for 3 years. GRIC has previously funded this project in 2021, with a multi-year award that ends this year.

### 7. Provide a brief timeline including start and finish dates. Indicate if the timeline is flexible.

Achieve Pinal's programs follow school year schedules. More specifically, the timeline for Achieve Pinal, assuming all funding is secured, will be as follows:

- May: Launch summer tutoring, establish tutoring schedule, prep materials
- June: Scale up and continue the implementation of the reading program in Pinal County; recruit tutors, onboard more staff, add schools, and hold information sessions
- July/August: Meet with Principals/potential schools to add students; Organize schedules and start dates; Gather students' test scores, place tutors, assign site specialist per school, and work with school's reading specialists for all details
- August/September: Prep for launch of tutoring, vet and train tutors, conduct interviews, fingerprint, and background checks; conduct tutoring and family engagement events, stagger start of tutoring at schools, orient tutors at schools and place with their students
- September – May: Tutors meet with students twice a week, for a total of five hours each week to improve literacy and social/emotional learning skills.

For the 2024/2025 school year, Achieve Pinal's goals are to improve the reading of 70% of students in the program by one grade level or more and tutor 200 students in the academic 2024/2025 school year.

### 8. Identify other organizations, partners or funders participating in the project and their roles.

Originally created in 2020, Achieve Pinal is a collaborative project of the Central Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation (CAREDF) and Pinal Alliance for Economic Growth (PAEG), leveraging the Read On Arizona and AARP Experience Corps programs to serve second and third-grade students in Pinal County



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reading below grade level. The following is a list of active partners: Read on Arizona, AARP Experience Corps, Pinal County, City of Coolidge, City of Casa Grande, Casa Grande Elementary School District, Coolidge Elementary School District, Stanfield Elementary School District, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, Department of Justice, Arizona Department of Education, Arizona Governor's Office, Arizona Public Service, Cox Charities, Pinal40, Casa Grande Rotary Foundation, B&K Land Management, Foothills Bank, Arizona Community Foundation, Resource Capital Funds Foundation, United Way of Pinal County, Walmart, Global External Partners, Elin Mining, Arizona Grain, and Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens.

### 9. Would you be able to implement the proposed plan if your organization received partial funding for this project?

GRIC's prior support was instrumental in Achieve Pinal's ability to secure the funding from the Governor's office last year. The Governor's grant expanded the program countywide, increasing the number of students and seniors served more than three-fold. If not funded, or funded at a partial level, Achieve Pinal will not likely be able to continue to serve Pinal County at the expanded service level. Any level of funding from GRIC would enhance Achieve Pinal's literacy goals for our third graders in need of tutoring. But, the full amount (\$75,000 over three years) would help Achieve Pinal sustain the expanded service from 2023.

### 10. Describe your plan for project financial sustainability beyond the grant period. If this is a program/project previously funded by the Gila River Indian Community describe efforts made towards the previously described sustainability plan.

Achieve Pinal is supported by the Central Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation (CAREDF) and the Pinal Alliance for Economic Growth (PAEG). Because of these two organization's support, Achieve Pinal's Reading Program will continue to be on-going. It is with the support of new partnerships that Achieve Pinal's Reading Program program expands and succeeds.

### 11. Describe your plan to document progress and results.

To measure academic outcomes, Achieve Pinal sites capture pre- and post-test assessments of reading fluency. These measures of reading fluency are individually administered to each child at least twice: at the beginning and once at the end of the school year. Where possible, Achieve Pinal gathers measures of reading fluency from district benchmark data. The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) is



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administered at most sub-grantee sites, which provides fluency scores at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. Where no standard assessment is provided, Achieve Pinal trains tutors to administer a simple measure of words read correctly per minute. Achieve Pinal also tracks the number of sessions each student receives throughout the year. Volunteers meet with students for a minimum of thirty-five intervention sessions – a benchmark the Washington University study illuminated as leading to improved literacy skills.

12. Indicate any application to and/or awards made by a tribe other than the Gila River Indian Community for state shared revenues for this and any other project for the past five (5) years. If this information is included in a separate attachment, please indicate that here.

Achieve Pinal has partnered with Ak Chin Indian Community in 2022.



## *Gila River Indian Community Grant Application Grant Cycle 2024*

### Project Budget

Budget Period: 10/01/2024 – 10/01/2025 (annual budget)

For each budget item listed here please provide a narrative description on the following Project Budget Detail page.

Proposed Budget Expense (list each budget item)	Amount requested from GRIC	Amount requested or secured from other sources	In Kind contributions	Total Budget
1. Personnel	\$25,000	\$341,250	\$0	\$366,250
2. Benefits	\$0	\$73,250	\$0	\$73,250
3. Contracts and Consultants	\$0	\$48,350	\$0	\$48,350
4. Volunteer Expenses	\$0	\$124,300	\$0	\$124,300
5. Supplies	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
6. Family Community Engagement	\$0	\$11,400	\$0	\$11,400
7. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
10. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
13. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
14. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
15. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget	\$25,000	\$610,550	\$0	\$635,550





## *Gila River Indian Community Grant Application Grant Cycle 2024*

### Project Budget Detail

Please provide a narrative description for each of the project budget items listed on the previous page. Include the dollar figure and how it was derived.

1. Personnel: Program Leader (.75 FTE) - \$63,750; program Manager (.75 FTE) - \$52,500; Volunteer Manager (1.0 FTE) - \$70,000; Support Specialists (1.5 FTE) - \$60,000; and Site Coordinators (10.0 FTE) - \$120,000
2. Benefits: FICA, Workers Comp, State Unemployment, Disability, Retirement, and Health Insurance
3. Consultants and Contracts: Contracted Financial Manager (\$18,350); Development Consultant (\$30,000)
4. Volunteers: Recruitment and Marketing - \$18,000; Group Leader Stipends (50 @ \$1,500/year) - \$75,000; Volunteer Recognition (\$50/volunteer) - \$13,000; Training and Meeting Supplies - \$2,500; Fingerprint and Background Checks (\$74.55/volunteer) - \$15,800.
5. Supplies: Computer Equipment and Printers - \$12,000
6. [Click here to enter text.](#)
7. [Click here to enter text.](#)
8. [Click here to enter text.](#)
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Other explanation: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**To ensure a complete application and proper submission please refer to the Grant Application Instructions.**

## Project Budget

Budget Period: 10/01/2024 – 10/01/2027

Year 1: 10/01/2024 – 10/01/2025

Year 2: 10/01/2025 – 10/01/2026

Year 3: 10/01/2026 – 10/01/2027

Proposed Budget Expense (list each budget item)	Amount requested from GRIC (Year 1)	Amount requested from GRIC (Year 2)	Amount requested from GRIC (Year 3)	Amount requested or secured from other sources (Year 1)	Amount requested or secured from other sources (Year 2)	Amount requested or secured from other sources (Year 3)	In Kind contributions	Total Budget (Year 1)	Total Budget (Year 2)	Total Budget (Year 3)
1. Personnel	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$341,250	\$350,000	\$375,000	\$0	\$366,250	\$375,000	\$400,000
2. Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$73,250	\$75,000	\$80,000	\$0	\$73,250	\$75,000	\$80,000
3. Contracts and Consultants	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$48,350	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$48,350	\$50,000	\$50,000
4. Volunteer Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$124,300	\$125,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$124,300	\$125,000	\$150,000
5. Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
6. Family Community Engagement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,400	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$11,400	\$15,000	\$20,000
Total Budget	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$610,550	\$625,000	\$685,000	\$0	\$635,550	\$650,000	\$710,000

\* All budget categories are explained in narrative – with amounts for Year 1, and assuming incremental increases year-over-year are reflective of expected increase in service levels and/or material costs.

### Project Budget Detail

Please provide a narrative description for each of the project budget items listed on the previous page. Include the dollar figure and how it was derived.

1. Personnel: Program Leader (.75 FTE) - \$63,750; program Manager (.75 FTE) - \$52,500; Volunteer Manager (1.0 FTE) - \$70,000; Support Specialists (1.5 FTE) - \$60,000; and Site Coordinators (10.0 FTE) - \$120,000
2. Benefits: FICA, Workers Comp, State Unemployment, Disability, Retirement, and Health Insurance.
3. Contracts and Consultants: Contracted Financial Manager (\$18,350); Development Consultant (\$30,000).
4. Volunteer Expenses: Recruitment and Marketing - \$18,000; Group Leader Stipends (50 @ \$1,500/year) - \$75,000; Volunteer Recognition (\$50/volunteer) - \$13,000; Training and Meeting Supplies - \$2,500; Fingerprint and Background Checks (\$74.55/volunteer) - \$15,800.
5. Supplies: Computer Equipment and Printers - \$12,000.
6. Family Community Engagement: Food, Space, Marketing, etc.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **AUG 14 2018**

CENTRAL ARIZONA REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION  
17235 N 75TH AVENUE SUITE D145  
GLENDALE, AZ 85308-0000

Employer Identification Number:  
30-1022450  
DLN:  
26053474002748  
Contact Person:  
NICHOLAS R HINDS ID# 31662  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500  
Accounting Period Ending:  
December 31  
Public Charity Status:  
509(a)(2)  
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:  
Yes  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
March 13, 2018  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

CENTRAL ARIZONA REGIONAL ECONOMIC

Sincerely,

*Stephen A. Martin*

Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements