



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

Name of the Tribal Community: Tohono O'odham Nation

Due date of the application to the Tribal community: June 7, 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: Raising Special Kids

Contact person/title: Christopher Tiffany

Email address: christophert@raisingspecialkids.org

Address: 5025 E Washington St., Suite 204, Phoenix, AZ 85034-2005

Project name: Mentoring and Support Program

Amount being requested: \$20,000

Project summary: The Mentoring and Support Program provides teaching, modeling, training, and connections to community resources for families with children who have disabilities or special health care needs. The Mentoring and Support Program helps parents improve long-term outcomes for their children with disabilities and special health care needs.

Beneficiaries: The program will serve any Pinal County families who are seeking help, resources, and referrals to understand and care for their child (ages birth to 26 years) with a diagnosed or suspected disability, behavioral challenge, and/or special health care need.

Supervisor District: 1

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



May 17, 2024

Verlon Jose
Chairman
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634



Dear Chairman Jose and Members of the Tohono O'odham Nation,

Raising Special Kids respectfully requests a grant of \$20,000 to support services for families whose children have disabilities and special health care needs through our **Mentoring and Support Program** in Pinal County. Requested funding will pay for a portion of the salary for a Family Support Specialist, our direct Mentoring and Support program service provider.

The families we serve are often overwhelmed, as they learn about the needs and disability of their child. They are faced with researching and identifying effective treatments and resources, finding coping strategies to manage the emotional and physical demands of caring for their child, and advocating for appropriate interventions and services from which their child will benefit.

This is why Raising Special Kids' (RSK) Mentoring and Support program is client-focused, community-based, and provides teaching modeling, and training for Pinal County families. Further, we connect families with community resources, providers, and services that will help improve their child's long-term health, academic success, independence, and self-sufficiency into adulthood. We provide these services at no cost to families to ensure there are no financial barriers to getting the assistance they need.

RSK began in 1979 as a grassroots effort of families, professionals, and community leaders determined to provide support and information for parents of children with disabilities and special health care needs. **Our mission is to strengthen families and systems of care to improve outcomes for children with disabilities and special health care needs.** Today, RSK serves as Arizona's Family-to-Family Health Information Center and as Arizona's Parent Training and Information Center. We touch the lives of over 11,000 Arizona families each year through our programs and services.

Current Need and How It Will Be Addressed: The CDC reports 1 in 6 children living in the U.S. has at least one developmental disability, and 1 in 5 children has a more substantial special health care need. In Arizona, the Division of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) 2022 Family Support Annual Report shows that more than 30,000 children and adolescents (ages birth through 21 years), our target population, were eligible for services as of June 30, 2022. To be eligible for DDD services, a child must, "have at least one of four diagnoses manifested before age 18 that is likely to continue indefinitely."

These children's families are tasked with navigating complex, bureaucratic, overlapping systems of care for their child, which can become barriers to accessing the services they need, all while attempting to manage the daily challenges that their child may face. Unfortunately, families have also experienced a drastic decrease in traditional supports over the past few years due to the long-term impact the pandemic had on health and education systems.



In fact, RSK fields more than 11,000 calls each year from Arizona families looking for assistance. More than 30% of inquiries come from parents seeking assistance managing their child's behaviors. RSK has also seen a **20% increase in requests** since the pandemic from families seeking assistance with special education concerns for their child. Many parents come to us feeling stressed, anxious, and overwhelmed.

To address these challenges and improve the long-term outcome for children with disabilities and special health care needs, RSK will help families become informed, effective advocates capable of securing essential care and services for their children. They will learn how to navigate the health care system currently operating under Medicaid flexibilities and increase their health literacy (learning about and processing health information and specific diagnoses) to make well-informed decisions about their child's complex health and/or behavioral needs.

RSK Family Support Specialists (FSS) will provide direct services with best practice activities including 1) Strategic outreach to increase families' awareness/understanding of our services, 2) Individual 1:1 direct assistance to families, 3) Individualized problem solving, and 4) Education on rights and responsibilities under federal entitlement programs. RSK focuses on health care, training, and education to help families achieve their goals and move forward.

Population Who Will Benefit: The population who will benefit are families that are seeking help, resources, and referrals to understand and care for their child with a

diagnosed or suspected disability, behavioral challenge, and/or special health care need better. RSK will serve 100 families throughout Pinal County during the grant term who have concerns about their child, aged birth to 26 years, at any developmental stage. RSK especially seeks to serve low-income families and those who are eligible for Medicaid.



Approximately 13% of Pinal County children (under 18) live below the poverty line, according to current Census Reporter website data. The World Population website currently reports that the Pinal County child dependency ratio is approximately 40%, and population by race is as follows: 76.76% White, 6.9% Two or more races, 5.1% Other race, 4.74% Native American, 4.5% African American, 1.65% Asian, and 0.35% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. RSK will serve families from these demographics.

RSK also serves a large population of limited English speakers. Language can be a significant barrier for many families trying to access services for their child. Benefits administrators, health care providers, and special educators often do not speak Spanish. Because communication is so important, RSK employs Spanish-English bilingual staff (approximately 40%) and contracts with interpreters for other languages to meet the needs of our service population.

RSK performs community outreach and has numerous referral partners throughout Pinal County, which will help us to connect to families in need of our program.

Budget of Requested Funds:

Mentoring and Support Program Expenses	Annual Cost	Tohono O'odham Funds Requested
Direct Staff Salaries (2.1 FTE @ \$46,000 per person)	\$96,900	\$20,000
Payroll Taxes/Benefits	\$24,150	
Professional and Contracted Services	\$500	
Travel/Mileage	\$2,000	
Program Equipment/Supplies	\$8,069	
Admin.	\$15,000	
Other/Misc.	\$500	
Rent	\$3,181	
Total	\$150,300	\$20,000

Other Funding Requests for the Mentoring and Support Program and Their Status:

Funder	Requested	Status
City of Chandler	\$40,000	Pending
AZ Complete Health	\$25,000	Pending
The Board of Visitors	\$35,000	Pending
Milbank Foundation	\$20,000	Pending
Kieckhefer Foundation	\$10,000	Awarded

Previous awards from the Tohono O'odham Nation or other Arizona tribes:
RSK has not received funding from the Tohono O'odham Nation.

RSK has received funding from Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation as follows:
FY 20-21, \$7,000 supporting Navigation, Coaching, Support-4-AZFamilies
FY 21-22, \$15,000 supporting Navigation, Coaching, Support-4-AZFamilies

RSK has received funding from Ak-Chin Indian Community as follows:
FY 20-21, \$20,000 supporting Navigation, Coaching, Support-4-AZFamilies
FY 21-22, \$20,000 supporting Navigation, Coaching, Support-4-AZFamilies
FY 22-23, \$40,000 supporting Navigation, Coaching, Support-4-AZFamilies
FY 23-24, \$50,000 supporting Mentoring and Support

Designated Contact Person

Christopher Tiffany, Executive Director

christophert@raisingspecialkids.org

602-344-9751

5025 E. Washington Street, Suite 204, Phoenix, AZ 85034

Fax: 602-242-4306

Alternate Contact Person

Janna Murell, Assistance Executive Director

jannam@raisingspecialkids.org

602-242-4366

5025 E. Washington Street, Suite 204, Phoenix, AZ 85034

Fax: 602-242-4306

Identified Priority Area: Health Care

RSK will enter into an agreement with: Pinal County

CINCINNATI OH 45999-0038

In reply refer to: 0248367584
Aug. 19, 2016 LTR 4168C 0
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RAISING SPECIAL KIDS
5025 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX AZ 85034



007271

Employer ID Number: 86-0517082
Form 990 required: Yes

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your request dated Aug. 10, 2016, regarding your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in October 1985, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

Our records also indicate 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 a return is required, you must file Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, or 990-PF by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. IRC Section 6033(j) provides that, if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked on the filing due date of the third required return or notice.

For tax forms, instructions, and publications, visit www.irs.gov or call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 1-877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific Time).

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RAISING SPECIAL KIDS
5025 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX AZ 85034

Sincerely yours,

Doris P. Kenwright

Doris Kenwright, Operation Mgr.
Accounts Management Operations 1

Zoey was an easy baby to adore with her big blue eyes, her cherubic facial features, and blond hair that shone like the sun.



For Kara and Jim Zoey's parents, it didn't take long though to recognize their daughter's muscle tone was low, and she had limited head control and gross motor delays. Zoey had been to several specialists by the age of 10 months and with every new test came additional clues into the root cause of Zoey's symptoms. Some of the information shared was insignificant while some was simply devastating and difficult to hear. Kara shared, *"We are on a long curvy path to determine the*

cause of her global delays, short stature and hypotonia. We have a lot of support in the medical world but our adventure continues as we keep searching for a true diagnosis for Zoey."

In preparation of moving back to Arizona from New Hampshire, Kara came across the **Raising Special Kids** website. Once they arrived in Arizona, Kara quickly faced challenges with Zoey's out-of-state IEP and getting her approval for Arizona Long Term Care System. She shared, "I was uneducated and quite overwhelmed." Throughout the entire process, **Raising Special Kids** was there for her. "I was given websites and books to research, seminars and webinars to attend, advice on how to organize documentation and the tools I needed to effectively advocate for my daughter. **Raising Special Kids** helped me find my voice."

She recalled her first conversation with Raising Special Kids:

"I immediately connected with a gal who provided me with recommendations and resources to prepare for the impact that moving from out of state would have on my daughter.

She has made a lasting impact on our family.

I still call on her for guidance, to shed some tears, and above all, have a good laugh."

"**Raising Special Kids** support comes without judgment or criticism but instead, with a soft voice of encouragement and inspiration. Even when I have made mistakes, I am welcomed with grace and guidance." Kara appreciates the people who work at **Raising Special Kids** who also have family members with disabilities, "They have their own unique perspective on challenging situations. **Raising Special Kids** can empathize and get it." **Raising Special Kids** has helped Kara find humor at times of great sadness or frustration. "I think laughter is the greatest medicine and goes a long way to help me persevere."