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: Tohono O'odham Nation

Due date of the application to the Tribal community: June 9, 2025

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: Apache Junction Reach Out, Inc. DBA Superstition Community Food Bank

Contact person/title: Erik Arriola, Executive Director

Email address: erik.arriola@SuperstitionFoodBank.org

Address: 575 N Idaho Road, STE 701, Apache Junction, AZ 851189

Project name: Fresh Pick Project

Amount being requested: $15,000

Project summary: The Fresh Pick Project, an initiative aimed at increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables for individuals and families in need.

Beneficiaries: Indviduals and families facing food insecurities in both Maricopa and Pinal Counties, including but not limited to residents of: Apache Junction, Gilbert, Gold Canyon, Mesa, San Tan Valley, Superior and Queen Valley/

Supervisor District: Jeff Serdy, District 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

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION 2025 Prop 202 - 12% GRANT PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Grant Proposal: Fresh Pick Project

Submitted by: *Apache Junction Reach Out, Inc. DBA, the* ***Superstition Community Food Bank***
Date: May 8, 2025

Grant Summary
Apache Junction Reach Out, Inc. DBA, the Superstition Community Food Bank, seeks **$15,000 in funding** to support the ***Fresh Pick Project***, an initiative aimed at increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables for individuals and families in need. Our food bank primarily relies on generous food drive donations, which often consist of highly processed, shelf-stable items high in sodium and preservatives. While these products serve an important role in food security, they lack the vital nutrients necessary for maintaining a healthy diet.

Inspired by the message shared by ***Jonathan Nez of the Navajo Nation*** at the ***2025 Arizona Food Bank Network Conference*** that **"Food is Medicine,"** we recognize that providing fresh produce will empower our clients to make healthier food choices and prepare nutritious meals. This initiative will allow us to improve the quality of food distributed while supporting community health, wellness, and insecurities.

Statement of Need
The Superstition Community Food Bank plays a critical role in addressing food insecurity, serving **44,301 individuals and 16,445 households** in 2024 alone. Our organization is uniquely situated in **Pinal County** yet serves both **Maricopa and Pinal County residents** due to its location within the Phoenix-Metropolitan area.

Food insecurity disproportionately affects low-income households, where access to fresh produce is often limited. Poor nutrition contributes to chronic health conditions such as *diabetes, obesity,* and *heart disease*. By introducing fresh fruits and vegetables into our food distribution efforts, we aim to **combat nutritional deficiencies and promote healthier eating habits** within the communities we serve.

We have established strong partnerships with the *City of Apache Junction*, local schools, and organizations such as *CAHRA*, *CAAFA*, and *A New Leaf*, allowing us to reach a broad audience. This initiative will further enhance our ability to provide **fresh, nutritious food options** to individuals and families in **Apache Junction, Gilbert, Gold Canyon, Mesa, San Tan Valley, Superior, Queen Creek, and Queen Valley**.

Project Description
- **Objectives:**
  - Increase access to fresh produce for food-insecure households.
  - Educate recipients on the nutritional benefits of fresh food and meal preparation.
  - Strengthen partnerships with local farmers, grocers, and food distributors.
- **Methods:**
  - Develop partnerships with growers, wholesalers, and local markets to source fresh produce.
  - **Integrate fresh food options into existing distribution programs.**
  - **Provide educational resources to encourage healthy meal preparation.**
- **Timeline:**
  - **Phase 1:** Secure funding and finalize supplier partnerships (Months 1-3).
  - **Phase 2:** Begin procurement and integrate fresh produce into distribution efforts (Months 4-6).

- **Phase 3:** Monitor progress, provide educational support, and evaluate impact (Months 7+).

Budget
The total cost of the **Fresh Pick Project** is **$50,000**, funded through multiple sources.

The requested funding will be allocated as follows:

- **Produce Procurement:** $50,000
- **Educational Materials & Outreach:** $2,000 (Covered by Food Bank)
- **Administrative, Storage & Distribution Costs:** $0.00 (Covered by Food Bank)

We know that many qualified organizations are applying for funding, partial funding will also be appreciated, once again, **ALL FUNDING will be spent to purchase produce.**

Funding Source	Contribution Amount
Ak-Chin Indian Community	**$15,000**
City of Apache Junction *(secured for FY 25-26)*	**$20,000**
Tohono O'odham Nation	**$15,000**
Superstition Community Food Bank *(if partial funding is granted, the food bank will cover the remaining balance, plus all education, outreach, administrative & distribution costs)*	**$2,000 + Unknown**

*We have also applied for $15,000 from the ***Ak-Chin Indian Community*****'s 12% Gaming Grant.**

We are seeking **$15,000 in additional funding** from the ***Tohono O'odham Nation*** to complete our budget for the ***Fresh Pick Projects*** initial launch and first year.

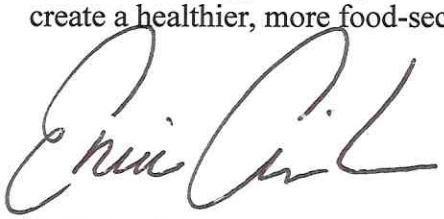
We have applied for the ***Gila River Indian Community*** 12% Gaming Grant in the past but have never been awarded any funding.

Evaluation & Reporting
We will track the program's success through quarterly reporting:

- **The number of households served fresh produce.**
- **The quantity and variety of produce distributed.**
- **Regular reporting to funders detailing challenges, successes, client feedback, spending and improvements.**

Conclusion
The ***Fresh Pick Project*** represents a transformational shift in our food bank's approach, prioritizing health and wellness alongside food security. By providing fresh, nutritious produce, we aim to **improve lives and promote lasting health benefits** for those facing food insecurity.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration and look forward to partnering in this initiative to create a healthier, more food-secure community.



Erik Arriola
Executive Director,
Superstition Community Food Bank

Grant Administrator Contact Information:
Superstition Community Food Bank
575 N Idaho Road, STE 701
Apache Junction, AZ 85119
480-983-2995 (O) 480-233-6680 (C)
Erik Arriola, Executive Director
erik.arriola@SuperstitionFoodBank.org
Patricia Luff, Executive Assistant
patricia.luff@SuperstitionFoodBank.org

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
PO Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

MAR 27 2025

Date:
March 21, 2025
Employer ID number:
86-0454767
Form 990 required:
Yes
Person to contact:
Name: Nicole S.
ID number: 1000196583

APACHE JUNCTION REACH OUT INC
575 N IDAHO RD STE 701
APACHE JCT, AZ 85119

Dear Sir or Madam:

We're responding to your request dated March 05, 2025, about your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in November 1988, 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, 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 990-EZ, 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 990EZ
- 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 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., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific time).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements