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: Gold Canyon Community, Inc. (GCCI)

Contact person/title: David Coward, Vice President

Email address: gccinc21@gmail.com

Address: 6499 S. Kings Ranch Rd., Ste 6 PMB31, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

Project name: Dark-Sky Designation

Amount being requested: $10,630.00

Project summary: The goal of this project is to be awarded certified "International Dark Sky Community" status for Gold Canyon by DarkSky International (www.darksky.org) as part of a concerted effort to protect the larger Superstition Foothills area from increasing light pollution. To this end, GCCI submitted a formal application to DarkSky International in 2023. The eventual success of this application hinges upon the quality of Pinal County's revised outdoor lighting ordinance and the implementation of a county-proposed Dark Sky Overlay zoning structure. To navigate complex technical and administrative requirements, funds are needed for expert consulting services, rezoning fees, and materials.

Beneficiaries: Residents of and visitors to Gold Canyon and surrounding areas along the base of the Superstition Mountains

Supervisor District: District 5 (Jeff Serdy)

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.

x David Coward
David Coward

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

Date:
11/17/2021
Employer ID number:
86-1423046
Person to contact:
Name: Customer Service
ID number: 31954
Telephone: 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:
February 08, 2021
Contribution deductibility:
Yes
Addendum applies:
No
DLN:
26053642002121

GOLD CANYON COMMUNITY INC
6499 S KINGS RANCH RD STE 6 PMB 31
GOLD CANYON, AZ 85118

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. 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.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Proposal for the Arizona Revised Statute 5-601-02
12% Gaming Distribution: Gold Canyon, Pinal County

1. Project description, goals, and community need

The goal of funding this project is to be awarded International Dark Sky Community certification by DarkSky International (www.darksky.org) in order to protect the pristine night sky from light pollution in Gold Canyon and its surrounding areas along the base of the Superstition Mountains.

Gold Canyon, a quiet unincorporated community in northern Pinal County east of Phoenix with 11,000 residents, has a long history of unofficially calling itself a dark sky community. However, new residential developments and the overabundance of light they bring have threatened this status. A community survey in 2021 revealed the preservation of dark skies as one of the top three major concerns among residents. It became clear that the overwhelming majority of residents support dark skies and want the night sky protected.

Hence, Gold Canyon Community, Inc. (GCCI), a community advocacy nonprofit, intends to strengthen the dark-sky ethic and to raise awareness of light pollution in Gold Canyon with an official dark-sky certification. To this end, we submitted our 80-page, data-heavy application to DarkSky International in 2023. This certification will protect our community and surrounding areas from the adverse effects of light pollution caused by encroaching development.

Arizona has over 20 International Dark Sky Communities. Gold Canyon would be the first official dark sky community in Pinal County, thus paving the way for others in the county to follow.

Unfortunately, there are roadblocks. In discussing our 2023 application submission with DarkSky International, we realized that the county's lighting ordinance needed adjustments in order to meet DarkSky's minimum requirements. Hence, we partnered with county officials and staff to form monthly focus groups. In 2023, 2024, and 2025, we submitted proclamation requests to recognize International Dark Sky Week, which the county supervisors approved unanimously. In early 2025, the county issued a draft of a revised ordinance after over a year of revision. As countywide discussions and negotiations are ongoing, the success of our certification goal hinges upon the quality of Pinal County's new lighting ordinance and the implementation of newly introduced dark-sky overlay zoning.

2. Budget

We are encountering financial barriers for which we seek grant assistance in order to accomplish our goal of preserving the night sky in our area. Due to the complexity of the administrative process and technical requirements, we have identified the need for ongoing expert consulting services to provide ordinance reviews and recommendations. In addition, we discovered that the county's fees for rezoning are considerable. Finally, we will need to install signs at the entrance of our community along US-60 to indicate Gold Canyon's dark-sky status once the certification is granted by DarkSky International. Our small, underfunded nonprofit is unable to absorb the cost.

The following expenses are expected:

Item Description	Estimated Amount
Consulting Service: John Barentine, Dark Sky Consulting, www.darkskyconsulting.com	
Follow-up ordinance reviews and comments/recommendations at $250/hour (expected in late 2025 and early 2026)	$2,000
Meetings with Pinal County staff	$500
Strategy consultations and Q&A by phone/Zoom	$250
Presentation to County Supervisors	$500
Help with highly technical LMP (lighting management policy) checklist match to Gold Canyon lighting data (for DarkSky International application)	$500
Materials:	
Upon DarkSky certification approval, production and installation of two large signs underneath the Gold Canyon community entrance signs on both ends of Highway US-60, indicating “International Dark Sky Community” with DarkSky International logo (expected in 2026)	$2,000
Fees:	
Potential application fees for light zoning change (County) per Pinal County fee schedule: https://www.pinal.gov/230/Fee-Schedule. Applicants for zoning change are responsible for fees (see 2.180.060 of proposed 2025 development services code).	$4,880
Estimated Total	**$10,630**

3. Previous funding requests

In 2024, GCCI received a $2,000 grant from Pinal County to pay for the first ordinance review by John Barentine with Dark Sky Consulting in early 2025. It was during this review that the need for further reviews and additional funds was identified.

In 2025, GCCI applied for the federal Thriving Communities Grant-making program for Region 9, administered by the EPA. Unfortunately, the EPA officially terminated the contract for the program in early May. As a result, grantee selections were halted and the application portal closed.

GCCI has never received a 12% distribution from the Tohono O’odham nation or any other tribe.

4. Designated contacts

Gold Canyon Community, Inc. (GCCI)

David Coward, Vice President
gccinc21@gmail.com
(480) 678-1756
9414 E Mogollon Trail
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

Isabelle Petersen, Dark Sky Committee
isarucks@gmail.com
(480) 243-0597
10344 E Superstition Range Rd
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

Pinal County (Fiscal Agent)

Heather Patel, Grants Administrator
heather.patel@pinal.gov
(520) 866-6422
P.O. Box 1348
Florence, AZ 85132

5. Priority area

Cultural & Environmental Development and Protection.

The negative impact of light pollution on human health, wildlife and ecosystems, and energy and climate is well documented (see, for example, https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/effects/human-health/, https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/effects/wildlife-ecosystems/, and https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/effects/energy-climate/).

In the long term, the outcome of proactive dark-sky protection will be healthier residents, wildlife, and ecosystems in our area and, eventually, across Pinal County.

6. County (Fiscal Agent)

Pinal County, AZ