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 9th, 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: Hope Women's Center

Contact person/title: Tammy Abernethy, CEO

Email address: tammy@hopewomenscenter.org

Address: 1640 E McDowell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85006

Project name: Hope Initiative Maricopa

Amount being requested: $10,000

Project summary: The Hope Initiative is a program that supports women at risk DCS involvement in family.

Beneficiaries: Underserved Women and Children in Pinal County.

Supervisor District: 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

Hope Women's Center Proposal for The Tohono O'odham Nation

Executive Summary

Underserved women in Maricopa face a range of adversity — addiction, domestic abuse, sexual abuse, unplanned pregnancy, and homelessness. When left unhealed, these traumatic experiences create vicious cycles of poverty, abuse, and neglect for women and their children. When these women are also mothers, these crises can lead to adverse childhood experiences, and potential involvement by the Department of Child Safety.

Hope Women's Center has found that mothers who receive appropriate support are able to keep their families together. That's why we recently expanded our Hope Initiative/Every Mother's Advocate program to serve women who are at risk of family separation. We provide mothers with the education, counseling, and case management they need to keep their families together.

As our clients find stability and support, the demand for the program has only been growing. To continue offering these mothers the support they need, we request a grant of $10,000 from the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Hope Women's Center has never received a 12% distribution from the Tohono O'odham Nation or any other Arizona Tribe. This proposal falls under the priorities of Economic Development and Education, and we plan to work with Pinal County as a fiscal sponsor.

Mission of Hope Women's Center

Hope Women's Center exists to engage, encourage, and equip women and teen girls facing any difficult life situation by providing support for her physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. As we refine and expand the work of Hope Women's Center, it is our longing to see our clients, and their community, profoundly transformed.

The Need in Maricopa

In December 2020, Hope Women's Center opened a center in Maricopa. We chose Maricopa because it is one of the fastest growing cities in Arizona, which always leads to increased levels of inequality. The programs offered at our Maricopa center take a holistic approach to help the underserved women in the area regardless of the challenges they face.

In 2023, Hope Women's Center identified an increased need across the state of Arizona to help stabilize families before an intervention from the Department of Child Safety was needed, and we expanded our Hope Initiative program to increase focus on stabilization and better meet the needs of the women we serve.

In 2022, the Department of Child Services identified 22,000 Arizona families who were at high risk of needing intervention. DCS got involved with a quarter of those families, which led to 3,400 kids being placed in foster care. These interventions are often necessary, but that does not make them any less traumatic for the family, and for the children. Thousands of lives are being tragically disrupted, and we know that these traumatic events have the power to affect women and children for the rest of their lives. However, we have found that when women and families receive prevention and interventional support and advocacy, their outcomes for family health, remaining intact and reunification increase.

Sadly, women in these situations typically don't have any support at all. The complicated process to avoid foster care or to reunify a family makes support so necessary. Requirements include paperwork, classes, meetings, court hearings, proof of employment, to name only a few. These kinds of steps are hard to manage for someone with stability, let alone someone who is likely struggling with poverty and unhealed trauma.

It doesn't have to be this way. With the right support, women in crisis can achieve steady employment, reunification with their children, and keep a stable family environment with improved parenting and life skills.

Our Solution: The Hope Initiative

HWC has responded to the shortcomings in the system by expanding the Hope Initiative as an affiliate of Every Mother's Advocate (ĒMA). ĒMA is a program that partners with mission-aligned affiliate organizations to eradicate the preventable causes of family separation through mother advocacy.

Hope Initiative/Every Mother's Advocate (ĒMA) is a Hope Women's Center program that seeks to eradicate the preventable causes of family separation through mother advocacy. The ĒMA program is an evidence-based, court-approved prevention program designed to empower moms in crisis to preserve their families. Hope Women's Center, as an ĒMA affiliate, trains staff members who are able to identify and pair at-risk mothers with our ĒMA-based programming. The program supports mothers through a two-prong approach — advocacy and case

management. This includes pairing each mother with a certified volunteer Advocate who offers social, emotional, and tangible support in weekly meetings. These trained ĒMA volunteer Advocates provide individualized and comprehensive support services — empowering moms to achieve stability and keep their families together.

This partnership will allow us to serve more mothers and make a greater impact on children involved in the child welfare system. As an ĒMA affiliate, HWC receives training and resources for this specialized program, and will care for mothers who are facing losing their children (prevention) and mothers who are working to reunite with their children (reunification). Thus, the specific objectives of the program are two-fold:

1. Prevent removal through our programs, mentorship, job coaching, case management, etc.
2. Increase reunification after removal happens in the first 18 months.

In 2024, over 29 women in Maricopa took advantage of our Hope Initiative/ĒMA program, which has sparked the need for more dedicated time from an EMA Manager at our Maricopa Center.

Who is helped?

During 2024, our Maricopa Center served over 157 women in 1700 visits.

Economic Demographics
93% of the women who come to our Maricopa Center make less than $14,000 per year.

Age Demographics
87% of our clients are between 20-60 years old.

Ethnic Demographics
12% of our clients are Native American
30% are African American
30% are Hispanic
16% are Caucasian
12% are Multi-racial or Other

Geographic Demographics
96% of our clients live in Pinal County, while 3% are homeless.

Budget

Hope Initiative Budget 2025 (statewide)	
Expense Item	**Expense Amount**
Materials	$1,000.00
Hospitality	$1,500.00
Transportation	$3,000.00
Curriculum	$1,725.00
Benevolent Fund	$6,000.00
Custom Program Software	$2,500.00
Volunteer Care	$1,000.00
EMA Space Improvements	$5,000.00
Media Update	$2,000.00
Staff Salary-Coordinators	$104,000.00
Staff Salary - Manager	$42,120.00
Staff Expenses	$2,000.00
Staff Training	$3,000.00
Total Expenses	**$174,845.00**

Hope Initiative Funding Request 2025		
Organization Asked	**Amount Requested**	**Status**
Tohono O'odham Nation	$10,000	Pending
Board of Visitors	$10,000	Pending

Conclusion

Thank you for considering Hope Women's Center's request for $10,000 from the Tohono O'odham Nation Gaming Distribution. Your support would directly impact our Hope Initiative program at our Maricopa Center, where we are witnessing growing demand from vulnerable mothers at risk of family separation. By helping mothers gain stability, improve parenting skills, and maintain family unity, we create generational change that aligns perfectly with the Tohono O'odham Nation's priorities of Economic Development and Education.

Please feel free to contact Hope Women's Center's CEO, Tammy Abernethy with any questions, or you can also contact her Executive Assistant, Kearstin Nuckols. Our mailing address is 1640 E McDowell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85006 and both contact people can be reached using the information below:

Tammy Abernethy, tammy@hopewomenscenter.org, (480) 330-3765
Kearstin Nuckols, kearstin@hopewomenscenter.org, (602) 715-0999

IRS Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

ATLANTA GA 39901-0001

In reply refer to: 0752484920
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HOPE WOMENS CENTER INC
HOPE WOMENS CENTER
% TAMMY ABERNETHY
1640 E MCDOWELL RD
PHOENIX AZ 85006-3032

021802

Employer ID number: 86-0668354
Form 990 required: YES

Dear HOPE WOMENS CENTER INC:

We're responding to your request dated Mar. 13, 2019, about your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in JANUARY, 2011, 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 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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HOPE WOMENS CENTER INC
HOPE WOMENS CENTER
% TAMMY ABERNETHY
1640 E MCDOWELL RD
PHOENIX AZ 85006-3032

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Teri M. Johnson
Operations Manager, AM Ops. 3