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 Tribal Gaming

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: Hoofbeats with Heart

Contact person/title: Kelley Hullihen, Founder and CEO

Email address: kelley@hoofbeatswithheart.org

Address: 43491 N. Coyote Road - Santan Valley, AZ 85140

Project name: Hoofbeats Equine Therapy Scholarship Program

Amount being requested: $15,000

Project summary: Please see attached

Beneficiaries: Individuals of all ages with physical and mental health challenges,

Supervisor District: District 2 Supervisory Goodman

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.

Kelley Hullihen

Director name and signature

Project Summary

Hoofbeats with Heart: Equine Therapy Scholarship Program

Program Overview

Hoofbeats with Heart provides equine therapy services to children and adults with physical disabilities and behavioral health disorders in Pinal County, Arizona. The organization is seeking funding to support its scholarship program, which makes therapy affordable regardless of participants' ability to pay.

Target Population

- Underserved populations including low-income families, veterans, minorities, uninsured/unemployed individuals and their families, and Indigenous groups
- Approximately 75% of scholarships are awarded to children under 18
- Participants include individuals living with injuries, debilitating illnesses, emotional trauma, and behavioral issues resulting from abuse or neglect
- Service area focuses on Pinal County residents, where over 13,000 children live with disabilities

Scholarship Program Details

- Will serve 40 students over a 12-month period
- Eight student cohorts with up to five students per cohort
- Each cohort participates in eight weekly group sessions (approximately one hour per session)
- Services provided at Hoofbeats Ranch in San Tan Valley or at local schools during spring and fall
- Funding will also increase capacity by certifying two additional therapists through the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association

Therapeutic Approach

- Services include Equine-Facilitated Learning (EFL) and Hippotherapy
- Physical benefits: The horse's gait closely mimics human stride, providing therapy that mechanical equipment cannot replicate

- Mental/emotional benefits: The human-horse bond yields improvements in cognitive, social, and emotional skills
- Addresses community needs identified in the Pinal County Community Health Needs Assessment

Program Evaluation

- Individualized therapy plans developed for each participant
- Progress monitoring through therapist notes and exit surveys
- Measurement tools include adapted versions of Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale and the Interpersonal Support Evaluation List
- Pre/post program surveys to measure changes in knowledge, behaviors, and thought patterns
- Documented outcomes include improved balance, coordination, attention span, communication skills, and overall quality of life

Partnerships

Hoofbeats has established partnerships with:

- AZ Complete Health Community Giving
- AZ Masonic Charities
- Autism Speaks
- Christopher Reeve Foundation
- Cardinals Charities
- Various referral sources including AZ Division of Developmental Disabilities, Dignity Health, Pinal County Sheriff's Department, local schools, healthcare providers, and behavioral health agencies

Community Need

- 1 in 44 children nationally are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder
- 17% (241,000) of Arizona children have emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions
- 57% of Pinal County Community Health Needs Assessment respondents identified mental health as their community's most significant health problem

IRS Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 0248455888
Nov. 21, 2008 LTR 4168C E0
14-1988788 000000 00 000
00019891
BODC: TE

HOOFBEATS WITH HEART
% KELLEY A HULLIHEN
PO BOX 2098
HIGLEY AZ 85236-2098980

015263

Employer Identification Number: 14-1988788
Person to Contact: SELLERS
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear TAXPAYER:

This is in response to your request of Nov. 12, 2008, regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that a determination letter was issued in DECEMBER 2007, that recognized you as exempt from Federal income tax, and discloses that you are currently exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our records also indicate you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Michele M. Sullivan

Michele M. Sullivan, Oper. Mgr.
Accounts Management Operations I

Tohono O'odham Nation
PROGRAM PROPOSAL
Hoofbeats with Heart - Equine Therapy Scholarship

A. PROGRAM NEED

The perceived need for equine therapy services in Arizona is substantial and growing. Currently, 1 in 44 children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, and 17% of Arizona children (approximately 241,000) have one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions. In Pinal County specifically, over 13,000 children are living with disabilities. The Pinal County Community Health Needs Assessment further reinforces this need, with 57% of respondents identifying mental health issues as the most significant health problem in their community. Additionally, 63% of respondents listed "resources to manage stress/mental health issues" and 59% identified "programs for kids/teens" as critical resources needed to reduce drug and alcohol misuse.

This proposal addresses these needs by providing equine therapy scholarships for underserved populations, including low-income families, veterans, minorities, uninsured and unemployed individuals, and Indigenous groups. The program will serve 40 Pinal County residents through eight student cohorts, with up to five students participating in eight weekly group sessions. The proposal also includes funding for therapist training to increase service capacity and ensure quality care delivery.

B. POPULATION SERVED

The Hoofbeats with Heart Equine Therapy Scholarship Program will benefit children and adults with physical disabilities and behavioral health disorders residing in Pinal County. The target population includes individuals living with:

- Physical disabilities such as paralysis, spina bifida, and cerebral palsy
- Autism spectrum disorders
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Substance use disorders
- Emotional trauma including PTSD
- Behavioral health disorders
- Debilitating illnesses

Scholarship recipients are typically from underserved populations, with approximately 75% being children under the age of 18. The demographic composition typically includes white, Hispanic, and Native American participants. The program specifically targets low-income families, veterans, minorities, uninsured and unemployed individuals, and their family members who cannot afford the full cost of therapy services.

C. BUDGET

Requested Amount:
Equine Therapy Scholarships $10,000
Therapist Training $5,000
Total $15,000

Amount of funding provided by agency: Hoofbeats with Heart's primary revenue sources include contracted services with Gila River Indian Community, private pay students, insurance reimbursements, and referrals whose fees are paid by the AZ Department of Developmental Disabilities. The proposed Pinal County Partnership Grant will support needs that are not covered by these resources including therapist training and scholarships for underserved populations including low-income families, veterans, minorities, uninsured and unemployed individuals, and their family members.

Budget Narrative:
Budget - Partial or full scholarships will be awarded for up to 40 Pinal County residents, depending on need and available funds. The cost of equine therapy is as follows: Each cohort has up to four students participating in eight weekly group sessions, lasting approximately one hour per session. Each session costs $600 for four students ($200 per hour for therapist, $100 per hour for horse handlers, and a $300 horse fee). Each student pays $150 per session or a total of $1,200 for all eight sessions. Scholarships range from $500 to $1,200. A $10,000 grant would provide twenty $500 scholarships for Pinal County residents or twenty $1,000 scholarships.

$5,000 EAGALA Training - expenses for two therapists @$2,500 each to attend training and become EAGALA certified through the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association.

Percentage of annual budget being requested: 5%
Partial Funding: The amount of funding will impact the number of students who are able to receive scholarships and access equine therapy programs. Hoofbeats will ensure that Pinal County funds are used to support students who need financial support and have the greatest need based on health conditions and personal challenges. Scholarship funds are the priority for funding followed by therapist training.

D. ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUESTS

Hoofbeats with Heart has an established track record of securing funding from multiple sources for this and related programs. The organization has received scholarship contributions from:

- AZ Complete Health Community Giving
- AZ Masonic Charities
- Autism Speaks
- Christopher Reeve Foundation
- Cardinals Charities

Additional funding sources for the organization's broader programs include Gila River Indian Community, Reeve Foundation, Sundt Foundation, Walmart, Fiesta Bowl, Cenpatico, and Autism Speaks. The organization also generates revenue through contracted services with Gila River Indian Community, private pay students, insurance reimbursements, and referrals paid by the Arizona Department of Developmental Disabilities.

E. PREVIOUS 12% DISTRIBUTION FROM TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION OR OTHER ARIZONA TRIBES

Hoofbeats with Heart has not previously received a 12% distribution from the Tohono O'odham Nation or other Arizona tribes.

F. CONTACT PERSON

Name: Kelley Hullihen, Founder and CEO

Email Address: kelley@hoofbeatswithheart.org

Phone Number: 602-421-7718

Mailing address: 43491 N. Coyote Road – Santan Valley, AZ 85140

Fax Number: 602-883-8670

G. PRIORITY TO ADDRESS

This project is directly related to health through its provision of evidence-based equine therapy services that address both physical and mental health conditions. The health benefits include:

Physical Health Benefits:

- Improved balance and bilateral/motor coordination
- Strengthened core, legs, and upper body
- Enhanced mobility for individuals with paralysis and other physical disabilities
- Therapeutic benefits from the horse's gait that closely mimics human stride

Mental Health Benefits:

- Treatment of emotional trauma including PTSD
- Support for individuals with autism spectrum disorders
- Assistance with behavioral health disorders
- Improved self-esteem and social support
- Enhanced communication and language skills
- Stress management and mental health support

The program utilizes validated assessment tools including Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale and the Interpersonal Support Evaluation List to measure outcomes. Nearly 50 years of research

demonstrates measurable improvements in physical, cognitive, social, and emotional skills through equine therapy interventions.

H. NON-PROFIT STATUS AND AGREEMENT ENTITY

Hoofbeats with Heart is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2007. If funds are granted, the agreement will be made with **Pinal County**, as this proposal specifically requests support through the Pinal County Partnership Grant program to serve Pinal County residents.

Contact Name: Heather Patel, Grants Administrator

Address: PO Box 1348, Florence, AZ 85132

Phone: 520-866-6422

Email: heather.patel@pinal.gov