



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

Name of the Tribal Community: Ak-Chin Indian Community

Due date of the application to the Tribal community: July 15, 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: Against Abuse, Inc.

Contact person/title: Maria-Elena Ochoa, Deputy Director

Email address: maria-elenaocioha@against-abuse.org

Address: 119 N. Florence Blvd., Casa Grande AZ 85122

Project name: Flexible Financial Assistance

Amount being requested: \$150,000

Project summary: AAI is requesting funds for **flexible financial assistance** to meet a variety of needs to achieve safety, mitigate homelessness and food insecurity, apply for work, address the requirements of their legal issues, address their medical and behavioral health needs, and more. By providing flexible financial assistance, we can help with the resources they need to ensure they do not return to their abusive situation but can move on to safety and self-sufficiency.

Beneficiaries: Victims of Domestic and/or Sexual Violence, Stalking, Dating Violence, Sex Trafficking

Supervisor District: Pinal County Wide

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.



Pat Griffen, Executive Director

2025 Ak-Chin Indian Community Grant Application Cover Sheet

Name of Applicant: Against Abuse, Inc.		Applicant is a: ☐ City/Town/County (circle) ☒ Other 501(c)(3)	
Contact Person and Title: Maria-Elena Ochoa			
Applicant Address (administrative office): Maria-Elena Ochoa			
City: Casa Grande		Zip Code: 85122	
Applicant Mailing Address (if different): PO Box 10733			
City: Casa Grande		Zip Code: 85130	
Phone Number: 520.836.1239		Fax Number: 520.836.7757	
E-mail Address: maria-elenaocioha@against-abuse.org			
Fiscal Agent for any Applicant that is not a City, Town, or County (<i>Special Taxing Districts/Fire Districts must have a Fiscal Agent</i>)			
Contact Person: Heather Patel, GPC, Grants Manager			
City/Town/County Mailing Address: PO Box 1348			
City: Florence, AZ		Zip Code: 85132	
Phone Number: 520.866.6422		Fax Number: 520.866.6422	
E-mail Address: heather.patel@pinal.gov			

Program or Project Name: Flexible Financial Assistance	
Priority Area (Check all that apply) ☒ education ☒ public safety ☒ health ☐ environment ☐ promotion of commerce ☒ economic and community development	
Purpose of Grant (brief statement): AAI is requesting funds for flexible financial assistance to meet a variety of needs to achieve safety, mitigate homelessness and food insecurity, apply for work, address the requirements of their legal issues, address their medical and behavioral health needs, and more. By providing flexible financial assistance, we can help with the resources they need to ensure they do not return to their abusive situation but can move on to safety and self-sufficiency.	
Target Audience/Beneficiaries: Victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, dating violence, stalking or trafficking.	
Beginning and Ending Date of Program or Project: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	
Amount Requested: \$150,000	Total Cost: \$150,000
Geographic Area Served: Pinal County	

By the execution of this Grant Application the undersigned agrees that the information contained in this Application is true, to the best of the Applicant's knowledge. The Applicant shall notify the Community if any information in this Application changes.

Signature:

For the Applicant:  Date: 6-6-25

Typed/Printed Name and Title: Pat Griffen, Executive Director

For the Fiscal Agent: _____ Date: _____

(If applicable)

Typed/Printed Name and Title: _____

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

In reply refer to: 0248145604
Apr. 01, 2014 LTR 4168C 0
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AGAINST ABUSE INC
% PATRICIA R J GRIFFEN EXEC DIR
PO BOX 10733
CASA GRANDE AZ 85130

020601

Employer Identification Number: 94-2856310
Person to Contact: MR. CORDELL
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your Mar. 21, 2014, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that you were recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in January, 1983.

Our records also indicate that 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.

Please refer to our website www.irs.gov/eo for information regarding filing requirements. Specifically, section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file an annual information return for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date of the third return for organizations required to file. We will publish a list of organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked under section 6033(j) of the Code on our website beginning in early 2011.



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AGAINST ABUSE INC
% PATRICIA R J GRIFFEN EXEC DIR
PO BOX 10733
CASA GRANDE AZ 85130

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

Sincerely yours,

Susan M. O'Neill

Susan M. O'Neill, Department Mgr.
Accounts Management Operations



Against Abuse, Inc.
Response to the Ak-Chin Indian Community
2025 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application

A. Purpose of Grant.

1. Describe the proposed project

AAI has been receiving State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funds to meet a variety of needs for victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, dating violence, stalking and trafficking. As a result, victims have been able to achieve safety, mitigate homelessness and food insecurity, apply for work, address the requirements of their legal issues, address their medical and behavioral health needs, and more. Unfortunately, the SLFRF funds will terminate July 31, 2025.

When victims approach us for services and support, they present with a variety of circumstances and individualized set of needs. Sometimes, victims have a safe place to escape to that may or may not be local and may even be in another state or even country and need funds for emergency travel fare and food during the trip. Often, because of an emergency escape to safety, they come to us with only the clothes on their backs and need clothing, food and baby-related supplies (bottles, diapers, formula, etc.) As a result of their trauma, they need counseling and therapy to help them cope and heal. As a result of their abuse and/or neglect, they may need medical attention, replacement of glasses or dental work. As part of their financial abuse and isolation, they come to us unemployed and may need clothing for interviews, funding for pre-employment course work, certifications or other work-related or education-related fees. Sometimes they need a cell phone to make and receive important calls from potential employers, lawyers, medical personnel, educators from their children's school, etc. If they have a vehicle, they may need initial or temporary help with gas, tire replacement, battery replacement, general repairs, car payments, vehicle insurance payments, etc. If they don't have a vehicle, they may need funds for transportation, such as, but not limited to, Lyft or Uber to get to interviews, classes, appointments, etc. If they are staying in a motel, they may need help with food and even quarters for laundry. If they are in their own home, sometimes they need help with food, back payments of rent or mortgage and utilities, HOA fees, as well as internet expenses to help mitigate their homelessness and/or food insecurity. They may need help replacing broken windows or doors, replacing locks, or installing security cameras. When they are involved in legal requirements and/or proceedings, they may need financial help with legal fees, obtaining and/or filing documents, transportation to and from court or appointments with their lawyer.

Based on AAI's QuickBooks Direct Assistance Report, below is a table that demonstrates the many reasons for which we were able to provide flexible financial assistance for victims during Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Activity/Item(s)/Services/Supports	Flexible Financial Assistance Provided FY 2023-2024
Emergency Therapy/Behavioral Health	\$4,250.00
Security (i.e. cameras, change locks, etc.)	\$128.54
Medical/Dental	\$680.00
Relocation to Safety	\$6,531.49
Vehicle Repair Expenses	\$847.86
Uber/Lyft	\$8,274.80
Gas	\$3,961.34



Activity/Item(s)/Services/Supports	Flexible Financial Assistance Provided FY 2023-2024
Food	\$2,879.54
Car Payments/Insurance	\$12,409.51
Housing related expenses	\$85,624.76
Cell phone / internet	\$4,421.52
Utilities	\$9,825.33
Clothes	\$912.97
Legal fees and expenses	\$1,708.65
Work and/or school related expenses	\$3,076.30
Laundry	\$50.00
Baby items	\$10.86
Misc. Assistance (approximate projection)	\$4,406.53
Subtotal	\$150,000.00

2. Identify the target population that will be served by the Project.

The population in Pinal County that will benefit from this funding would be those who are victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, trafficking, dating violence and stalking and are receiving services from AAI. To determine the degree of incidence of domestic and sexual violence in Pinal County, AAI requested data from a variety of law enforcement agencies. Though we did not receive reports from all of them, below is a table indicating that, in 2024, in aggregate, those law enforcement agencies that provided reports responded to 1,668 calls from victims of domestic and/or sexual violence.

Pinal County Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Calls to Law Enforcement 2024							
	Maricopa PD	Casa Grande PD	Eloy PD	Coolidge PD	PCSO	Total	Combined Total
Domestic Violence	104	718	307	71	96	1,296	1,668
Sexual Violence	55	101	98	5	113	372	

In Fiscal Year 23-24, AAI provided services for 595 victims and 245 families. AAI anticipates providing 450 instances of Flexible Financial Assistance during 2026.

Against Abuse, Inc. Service Division	Number Served in FY 23-24
2 Emergency Shelters	305 adults and children
Transitional Living Services	45 adults and children
Mobile and Community Based Services	245 adults
Supervised Visitation	285 families



3. Describe the Project goals and objectives and outline a plan to meet these goals.

The project goal is to provide Flexible Financial Assistance to victims when they are in need of financial assistance to:

- a. Establish immediate and ongoing safety
- b. Mitigate homelessness and/or food insecurity
- c. Comply with legal fees and requirements
- d. Provide transportation or transportation related support
- e. Provide employee and/or student-related expenses
- f. Provide individualized miscellaneous flexible financial assistance as needed

To meet these goals, staff will meet with clients to identify the need for Flexible Financial Assistance. If the victim is eligible, the staff will complete a Purchase Request (PR) form for approval and processing. The Finance Manager will provide the funds as requested on the PR. Utilizing QuickBooks, the Finance Manager will keep track of the amount being used and the amount remaining in the fund and communicate this information to the Associate Director who will convey it to the Leadership Team on a regular basis during weekly team meetings.

4. Provide a timetable for implementation of the Project.

AAI will begin administering Flexible Financial Assistance on an as needed basis beginning in January of 2026. Due to the unpredictable nature of victims' needs, AAI will continue to administer Flexible Financial Assistance until December 31 of 2026 or until the funds have been exhausted, whichever comes first.

B. Resources

1. Current Funding Sources

AAI has been receiving one-time SLFRF funds to meet a variety of needs for victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, dating violence, stalking and trafficking. Unfortunately, the SLFRF funds will terminate July 31, 2025. AAI receives very small amounts of ongoing Flexible Financial Assistance from DES: We receive about \$5,000 for victims of domestic and/or sexual violence and \$11,000 which is limited to victims of sexual violence. Though helpful, these funds barely scratch the surface compared to the actual need of victims.

2. Identify other organizations or partners that are participating in or contributing to the Project, but which are not funding sources, and describe their roles or contributions.

As AAI has been a member of the Pinal County Community since 1981, there are a number of organizations or partnerships that have helped us provide victims services and support. For example, many of the local motels, such as Mainstay, partner with us by providing discounted rates during their slow seasons. A number of auto repair shops provide discounts for tire replacement and general vehicle repair, such as Brakemasters, Tire Solutions, Johnny's Auto, Big Joe's Tires and Oil Depot. Arizona@WORK partners with us to help provide victims employment related support and education. Banner Hospital works with AAI when a victim needs a SANE exam after a sexual assault. Pinal Hispanic Council, Helping Associates, Community Bridges provide crisis and/or ongoing behavioral health support on a sliding fee basis. AAI has a strong relationship with prosecutors that have significant experience providing advice or court representation. Some lawyers, such as the Palmer Law Group and SALA (Southern Arizona Legal Aid) offer their services pro bono or at discounted rates. The Pinal County Housing Authority, the Pinal County Homelessness Coalition and HomeInc help when it comes to finding affordable housing. Many day care facilities work with us so their parent can go to school or



work, Sun Life Preschool, Passion Preschool. They work with us by making “promise to pay” arrangements. The Bargain Hut thrift store and the Casa Grande Alliance provides vouchers for discounted clothing. The Casa Grande elementary school homeless liaison provides transportation to and from school, backpacks, hygiene items and school clothes for children. The Casa Grande Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul provide some food boxes. Foothills bank provides free financial classes. The UofA provides free nutrition classes at our shelters. AAI works with WIC (via the Pinal County Health Department) for nutritional education.

3. Define the Project as a new or continuing project or a purchase. Provide information about how the Project will be sustained or the purchase will be maintained after the grant funding is exhausted.

This is a continuing project. After the funds from this project have been exhausted, we anticipate including a line item for Flexible Financial Assistance as a routine practice in grant applications going forward. We may also allocate donated funds to support this project on an ongoing basis.

4. If the Applicant organization has requested funding from any other Arizona tribe, please list:

a. Pending requests made within the last eighteen (18) months for the same request, including the name of the tribe to which the request was made.

AAI is submitting a similar request to the currently open Tohono O’odham Nation request for proposals (due June 9, 2025). We do not know if we will be awarded, whether fully or partially. We hope to be awarded by both requests to provide support to more victims as they need Flexible Financial Assistance.

b. Funded requests made in the last five (5) years.

Previous Funding over the last 5-years	Date Received	Amount	Purpose
Tohono O’odham	12/28/21	\$24,542.70	Air Scrubbers and Security System
Tohono O’odham	02/16/24	\$100,000	Electric Safety Pedestrian gate and Motel-based Crisis Shelter
Ak-Chin	02/20/20	\$39,939.63	Computer Workstations
Ak-Chin	02/24/22	\$24,542.70	Air Scrubbers and Security System
Ak-Chin	02/22/24	\$89,000	Motel-based Crisis Shelter
GRIC	n/a – not awarded	\$211,656	Motel Based Crisis Shelter

C. Reports. Explain how your organization will account for and manage the funding if selected. Describe how Project progress and results will be tracked and documented.

AAI has a long-established internal process for providing financial assistance to victims.

1. The client and case manager or other staff designee will identify a need for flexible financial assistance.



2. The AAI staff will complete a Purchase Request (PR) to include details regarding the nature of the expense, the address, the amount, etc.
3. The PR will be submitted to the Program Director for review and approval. The Program Director will determine if the expense falls within the guidelines of the project and if there are sufficient funds in the budget to provide the FFA. If the request is appropriate, the Program Director will sign their approval and submit the signed PR to the Finance Manager.
4. The Finance Manager will review the PR to ensure all signatures are in place and all necessary information has been provided. The Finance Manager will provide the FFA in the format requested, whether by direct payment, gift card, check, etc.
5. The Finance Manager will document the transaction in QuickBooks and file all related documents.
6. The Finance Manager or the Associate Director will provide QuickBooks generated reports regarding the amount available in the budget for ongoing FFA requests.
7. The Finance Manager or Associate Director will provide a final report, upon request, to include all transactions, and information such as the date, the amount spent, what the funds were used for, etc.

D. Budget. Provide a budget, including justification, that supports the request in the Application. Provide an estimated timeline for when funds will be expended.

Proposed Budget		
Types of financial assistance to be provided from January 1-2026 – December 31, 2026	Flexible Financial Assistance Budget	Comments
Food; security systems; medical, dental, vision, behavioral health; any employment or education related expenses (also includes daycare, clothes, transportation); cell phone and/or cell phone payment; rental or mortgage assistance; utilities; legal fees and required expenses; travel expenses to include but not limited to relocation, transportation such as Uber or Lyft, gas, vehicle repair, car payment, insurance, etc.; baby items; and miscellaneous assistance yet to be determined.	\$150,000	These funds will be considered flexible and will be spent based on the needs of survivors at any given time. Spending will not be limited by the amount and/or characteristics of spending that occurred in FY 23-24.

E. Additional information. Please provide any additional information about the Project or the Applicant organization that the Ak-Chin Council should know when considering the Application.