



**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:

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: Manes and Miracles

Contact person/title: Lindsey Pittman

Email address: Lindsey@manesandmiraclesaz.org

Address: 43421 N Friend Ave, San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

Project name: Scholarships to special needs children for healing with horses

Amount being requested: \$17,700

Project summary: Provide one month of scholarships for equine-assisted therapies and activities to fifteen special needs children.

Beneficiaries: Children between 3-18 years old with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities in Pinal and Maricopa Counties

Supervisor District: District 2

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.

Lindsey Pittman 

Director name and signature

2025 Ak-Chin Indian Community Grant Application Cover Sheet

Name of Applicant: Manes and Miracles	Applicant is a: ☐ City/Town/County (circle) ☒ Other
Contact Person and Title: Lindsey Pittman	
Applicant Address (administrative office): 43421 N Friend Ave	
City: San Tan Valley	Zip Code: 85140
Applicant Mailing Address (if different):	
City:	Zip Code:
Phone Number: 480-389-7936	Fax Number: N/A
E-mail Address: lindsey@manesandmiraclesaz.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, GPA	
City/Town/County Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1348	
City: Florence	Zip Code: 85140
Phone Number: (520)866-6422	Fax Number: (520)866-6944
E-mail Address: heather.patel@pinal.gov	

Program or Project Name:
Priority Area (Check all that apply) ☒ education ☐ public safety ☒ health ☐ environment ☐ promotion of commerce ☐ economic and community development
Purpose of Grant (brief statement): Children with special needs will receive scholarships to participate in healing programs with horses such as physical therapy, equine-assisted emotional learning, and adaptive horseback riding.
Target Audience/Beneficiaries: Children 3-18 years old with physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities in the Southeast Phoenix valley.
Beginning and Ending Date of Program or Project: Project start date: Oct 16, 2025 Project End Date: May 15, 2026
Amount Requested: \$17,700 Total Cost: \$304,899
Geographic Area Served: East Maricopa County, 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:  Date: 6/10/2025

Typed/Printed Name and Title: Lindsey Pittman

For the Fiscal Agent: Date:

(If applicable)

Typed/Printed Name and Title:



Manes and Miracles Proposal Ak-Chin Indian Community



A.1.) The purpose of the grant-funded program is to make access to the benefits of services with equines affordable to everyone. Autism and severe selective mutism left Taylor feeling like an outsider, unable to find her voice and her place at school, church, with friends and anywhere else a typical 13 year old craves acceptance. Her life had been a series of therapies to help her build her skills and confidence with minimal success. Then she met the horses at Manes and Miracles. Slowly, Taylor began to transform, beginning with a whisper to her horse friend and building to

giving audible verbal cues, then communicating with her instructor and coaches, and, miraculously, developing the ability to share a conversation with a stranger. Each word was a victory, allowing Taylor to finally be share her light with everyone around her.

The power of healing with horses continued beyond the confidence and social progression for Taylor. She was rushed to the emergency room one day when her tachycardia flared up, sending her heart rate soaring to 150 bpm, putting her at risk of a stroke. Just two days later, Taylor insisted on coming to her scheduled adaptive riding session. Her heart rate was still dangerously high at 120 bpm when she arrived and began prepping her horse. However, after 20 minutes of the peace of riding and the body regulating movement of the horse, her heart rate had dropped to a safe, steady 80 bpm. That isn't just therapy, that is healing that would not have been possible without the Manes and Miracles Scholarship Fund.

For 7 years, the horses at Manes and Miracles have affordably brought hope, happiness, and healing to children with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, ADD/ADHD, anxiety, and other physical and emotional disabilities. The unique rhythm and movement of the horse engages nearly every system of the body, improving flexibility, balance, core strength, physical and emotional regulation, stamina, and so much more. Confidence grows as the child interacts with the horse and their support team of highly trained therapists or instructors and caring volunteers, helping the child build valuable life skills such as communication, teamwork, decision making, responsibility, consideration and more.



Without the Scholarship Fund, the cost of operating a 3.3 acre facility, a herd of 6 horses and other therapeutic ranch animals, and all that comes along with it would be passed on to the families we serve at \$295 per session. For families like Taylor's, the cost of this kind of life-changing care would be impossible to carry alone. With scholarships, we remove the financial barrier so that children can receive the best plan of care, regardless of the financial situation of their family. We humbly request \$17,700 from the Ak-Chin Indian Community to provide one month of scholarships for equine-assisted activities or therapies to 15 special needs children.

A.2.) Manes and Miracles serves children between 3 and 18 years old with developmental disabilities in Pinal and East Maricopa counties. Each week, 24 children with physical, mental, and emotional disabilities receive deeply impactful services with us each week. 6% of our clients are Native American, 5% are black, 20% are Hispanic, 3% identify as multiracial, and the remaining 66% of clients are white. 32% of our clients are adopted or in foster care and 35% have a sibling or other family member also with a disability. We have around 140 children on our waitlist. Additionally, over 350 volunteer hours are logged weekly, many from individuals with disabilities themselves, such as autism, anxiety, and PTSD. Individuals seeking to benefit from this proposal will apply for assistance based on their financial need and the recommendation of their supervising therapist or instructor ensuring that the funds are honored as disclosed in this application.

A.3.) We will raise \$308,600 for the Manes and Miracles scholarship fund to provide a 90%-100% equine-assisted therapy scholarship for financially disadvantaged clients during our 2025-2026 season (October 2025 through May 2026). Each session at Manes and Miracles bears an expense of \$295, a price that is out of reach for our clients, 17% of whom are below the poverty level. While similar facilities in Arizona charge up to \$200 per session, we proudly offer scholarships to every client, allowing clients to pay what they can afford, with scholarships covering the rest. Our request for \$17,700 will provide one month of scholarships for 15 underprivileged children, like Taylor. To implement this, families with financial limitations are invited to complete a scholarship application requesting assistance. Applications will be reviewed by a team of Manes and Miracles staff, with scholarships being awarded based on factors such as annual household income, outside funding potential (such as DDD, ESA, etc), and the number of individuals in a household. Once awarded, clients are billed by a 9-week term with scholarship funds reducing or entirely removing the balance due. Scholarship funds are tracked by our administrative team through Quickbooks and Wranglr, our tracking system, and verified by an independent bookkeeper, SJS Accounting.

In order to meet this goal, we will keep expenses down by:

- Continuing partnerships with physical therapists from outside clinics with no professional fees paid by Manes and Miracles.
- Maintaining our current force of 60+ active volunteers while recruiting and training new volunteers throughout the season. We will use new and previously successful avenues for recruiting, such as volunteer websites, neighborhood communities, schools, service organizations, churches, social media, and more, to ensure the program runs smoothly with as little expense for staff, labor, and contractors as possible.
- Partnering with committed community members to provide in-kind donations for rent, labor, and necessary materials.

We plan to build the reserves within the Scholarship Fund as we:

- Nurture relationships with five consistent scholarship fund donors
- Host annual fundraisers that have already proven successful
- Apply for grants specifically for scholarship purposes
- Focus 25% of unspecified donations to the Manes and Miracles Scholarship Fund

A.4.) The Manes and Miracles Scholarship Implementation Timeline

Stage of Scholarship Implementation	Beginning	Ending
Apply for funding through grants and private donors	Ongoing	Ongoing
Fundraise towards building the Scholarship Fund focusing on Giving Tuesday, End of Year Giving, and Qualified Charitable Organization Tax Credit benefits	Ongoing	Ongoing
Begin accepting applications for 8-week full scholarships	9/1/2025	5/1/2026
Provide adaptive riding and equine-assisted learning	8/4/2025	5/15/2026
Provide equine-assisted physical therapy	10/13/2025	5/15/2026
Host our annual Trot or Treat Fall Festival Fundraiser	10/6/2025	10/6/2026
Partial and full scholarships are applied based on individual client needs and usage.	10/1/2025	6/1/2026
Host the Hoedown for Healing Event	11/15/2024	11/15/2024
Host our annual Peer to Peer Fundraiser	1/27/2025	2/10/2025
Ak-Chin Grant Funds Distributed	01/01/2026	03/01/2026

B.1.) Funding Sources

- ★ Program Fees- \$42,170 from program fees (long term)
- ★ Private Donations- \$75,000 from recurring committed donors (long term),
\$40,000 from new major program donors (one-time and long-term)

- ★ Fundraisers- \$58,000 (Approx 25% one time, 75% long term)
- ★ Grants- \$118,500 (One time only)
- ★ Manes and Miracles General Budget (As needed, long term)

B.2.) Additional organizations/partnerships

- ★ Clinics providing physical therapists: Making Milestones, AZOPT Kids Place
- ★ Animal Care Providers: Cox Farrier, Queen Creek Veterinary Clinic(immunizations), Herd Health Management(veterinary care), Sacate Pellet Mill(feed), Hoof Falls and Footfalls(consultation), Kahoots Feed Store (supplements and misc supplies)
- ★ Volunteer sources: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, JustServe.org, AT Still, Northern Arizona University, Pima Medical Institute
- ★ Organizational assistance: SJS Accounting (bookkeeping and payroll assistance), Pinal County(Networking for various needs),
- ★ Miscellaneous organizations: Queen Creek Home Depot, Ace Hardware, Midwest Food Bank (food, drinks, and supplies)
- ★ Volunteers: Volunteers assist with animal training and care, therapy sessions, facility maintenance, and development, providing equipment, etc.

B.3.) The Scholarship Fund is a continuing project. To sustain our Scholarship Fund once the grant funding from Ak Chin is exhausted, we have laid out a plan to engage the community through relationships with foundations, in-kind partners, private donors, and businesses whose visions align with our core values. Additionally, we have previously seen great success and will continue to utilize fundraisers.

B.4.a) Pending: Scholarship support has been requested from the Gila River Indian Community Grant for \$15,300 each year for 3 years, and the Tohono O’Odham Nation for \$20,180.

b) The Ak-Chin Indian Community awarded \$14,000 in 2023 and \$14,560 in 2024 for scholarships. Gila River Indian Community awarded \$14,000 in 2024 for scholarships.

C) Reporting Guidelines. We will track the number of sessions completed by the children who receive scholarship coverage thanks to the Ak-Chin Indian Community. The appropriate scholarship funding for these sessions will be transferred by and tracked through Wranglr, our scheduling system, and Quickbooks, our billing system by Lindsey Pittman, the Executive Director, and by Heidi Anderson, our volunteer bookkeeper. Intangible results are recorded through surveys of the families we serve. We will proudly report the results (total number of sessions provided and developmental improvements the children have seen because of said sessions) following the end of the season in May 2026 via email, mail, or Ak-Chin Indian Community's preferred method.

Manes and Miracles Scholarship Program Budget 2025		
Animals	\$84,837	Feed and supplements, vet care, farrier(hoof care), bodywork, bedding, etc for 6-8 horses, 3 goats, 2 pigs, 8 chickens.
Facility	\$281,947	Rent and upkeep of 3.3-acre ranch.
Program management	\$119,581	The program director and barn manager oversee the safe and effective program implementation.
Insurance	\$12,250	
Program expenses	\$32,229	Supplies, taxes, legal and professional services, etc
Utilities	\$10,230	Providing water for the animals & shade trees, electricity for arena lighting, waste removal, etc.
Total Program Expenses	\$541,074	The overall Manes and Miracles budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is \$652,662. Direct program expenses represent 83% of the overall budget with staffing, fundraising, vehicles, bank fees, marketing, and other organizational overhead expenses representing the remaining 17%
Budgeted program fee income	\$42,170	Income from program fees: \$6,075 from equine-assisted therapy, \$6,615 from equine-assisted learning, \$24,300 from adaptive riding, and \$5,180 for summer camps.
In-kind contributions	\$194,005	Rent discounts and other program-specific, in-kind donations.
Total Scholarship Budget	\$304,899	Total program expenses, less income from program fees, leaving the budget necessary for the Scholarship Fund.
Ak-Chin Grant	\$17,700	One month (4 sessions) of scholarships for 15 children with special needs to participate in equine-assisted activities and therapies. (\$295/session x 15 children x 4 sessions)
Other Grants	\$118,500	Grants identified in section D as well as several others identified and will be applied for within the 2025 fiscal year.
Private Donations	\$115,000	Donations to be applied to the scholarship fund.
Fundraisers	\$58,000	Fundraising dollars to cover needs in the scholarship budget.
Total Scholarship Funding	\$308,600	

Funds from the Ak-Chin Community Grant will be utilized beginning January 1, 2026, and it is estimated that they will be expended April 1, 2026.

Thank you for your time and consideration