



**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 Tribal 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: Oracle Community Learning Garden, Inc

Contact person/title: Liz Tuck, Treasurer of the Board

Email address: liztuck8@gmail.com

Address: PO Box 5471 Oracle, AZ 85623

The address of the Garden is 1034 E. Mt. Lemmon Hwy, Oracle AZ

Project name: Sustaining Oracle Community Learning Garden

Amount being requested: \$10,634.50

Project summary: We are requesting funds for materials to build two wheelchair accessible garden beds; replace worn wooden raised beds, install rainwater harvesting systems on 2 existing buildings. create educational signs, and replace worn covers for hoop houses

Beneficiaries: Residents of Oracle, San Manuel, and Mammoth

Supervisor District: District 4

The undersigns hereby certifies they have read and comply with the responsibilities set forth in the
PINAL COUNTY TRIBAL GAMING GRANT PROGRAM

Liz Tuck

Director name and signature

Request for fiscal agent/pass through support documentation.

2025 Ak-Chin Indian Community Grant Application Cover Sheet

Name of Applicant: Oracle Community Learning Garden		Applicant is a: ☐ City/Town/County (circle) ☒ Other	
Contact Person and Title: Liz Tuck, Board Treasurer			
Applicant Address (administrative office): 1034 E. Mt. Lemmon Hwy			
City: Oracle		Zip Code: 85623	
Applicant Mailing Address (if different): PO Box 5266,			
City: Oracle, AZ		Zip Code: 85623`	
Phone Number: 520-235-2485		Fax Number:	
E-mail Address: liztuck8@gmail.com			
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			
City/Town/County Mailing Address:		Pinal County Office of Budget and Finance	
City: Florence		31 N. Pinal St	
Zip Code: 85132			
Phone Number: 520-866-6422		Fax Number:	
E-mail Address: Heather.Patel@Pinal.gov			

Program or Project Name: Sustaining Oracle Community Learning Garden	
Priority Area (Check all that apply) ☒ education ☐ public safety ☒ health ☐ environment ☐ promotion of commerce ☒ economic and community development	
Purpose of Grant (brief statement):	
To replace garden beds with more sustainable materials; build 2 accessible raised beds for elders; improve educational signs; install rain water drainage system	
Target Audience/Beneficiaries: Residents of Oracle, San Manuel and Mammoth	
Beginning and Ending Date of Program or Project: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	
Amount Requested: \$10,634.50	Total Cost: 19,362.8
Geographic Area Served: Southeastern 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: Liz Tuck Date: 6/7/2025

Typed/Printed Name and Title: Liz Tuck, Treasurer

For the Fiscal Agent: _____ Date: _____
(If applicable)

Typed/Printed Name and Title: _____

Oracle Community Learning Garden

Proposal to Ak-Chin Indian Community Narrative

A. Purpose of Grant

1. Describe proposed project

The Oracle Community Learning Garden (OCLG) respectfully submits this proposal to the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Grant Program in support of our mission to cultivate sustainable food systems, environmental education, and intergenerational connection in the rural high desert community of Oracle, Arizona. Rooted in principles of respect for land, tradition, and community, the OCLG serves as a living classroom where youth, elders, families, and volunteers come together to learn, grow, and nourish both body and spirit.

OCLG is a grassroots initiative located in the unincorporated area of southeastern Pinal County. Our request reflects a commitment to community resilience, food sovereignty, and cultural education. Through this grant, we seek to expand our programming to reach more families from underserved populations, strengthen community knowledge sharing, and enhance water-wise agricultural practices in this arid landscape.

The support of the Ak-Chin Tribal Gaming Grant Program would help deepen the impact of the OCLG as a hub for environmental stewardship, hands-on learning, and community connection—values that align closely with the Ak-Chin Community's longstanding traditions of agriculture and education. We thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to continue growing a healthier, more connected future for all generations. Our request is for \$10,634.50.

Replace existing raised beds.

Twenty-eight families from Oracle, Mammoth and San Manuel grow their own produce at the Oracle Community Learning Garden. The cost to rent a garden bed is \$10.00 per month. This does not cover the cost of irrigation repairs, water use or maintaining the raised beds made of reclaimed wood that have had seven years of continuous use.

Replace hoop house covers.

In 2018, Winkelman/Redington National Conservation Districts donated an 80' hoop house to the garden. Because of space issues we divided the hoop house into two 40' houses. We use the hoop houses to grow organic plants

from seeds. We sell plants in spring and fall to our gardeners and community residents who garden at home. These are our biggest fundraising events. People love our plants! They come back every year to support our garden by purchasing vegetable and flower starts. The hoop houses are vital for the plant-growing enterprise.

Add additional educational signage.

Throughout the garden we have placed attractive signs that explain what is happening in each section of the garden. For example, we would like to add educational signage to our Community Composting bins. Learning about the compost processes will invite more community members to contribute their household food waste to our compost.

We also want to place signs at the gazebo that list upcoming events at the garden, demonstrate pollination and other fun educational drawings. Students from our local school visit the garden every Monday during the school year. They use the gazebo as an outdoor classroom.

Install rain water catchment systems on the gazebo and train station.

These are two buildings that we acquired through grant funding. We want to place rain gutters on the buildings and use drainage pipes to conduct rain into two 250-gallon tanks. The water will be used for irrigation, conserving our ground water and lowering our water bills from Arizona Water Company.

2. Target Population

OCLG will continue to serve the public as we have in the past. Some of our gardeners have rented a raised bed since we planted our first seeds in 2017. Many of our gardeners are new to Arizona and our high desert ecosystem. Several Master Gardeners volunteer at the garden and are always happy to answer questions from our gardeners and our neighbors. These gardeners stay with us for one or two years and then have confidence to garden at home, leaving space for new families to join the community garden.

3. Goals and objectives and how they will be met:

Goal 1: Revitalize parts of the garden infrastructure that are degraded.

Our 20 original raised garden beds are built of wood that has degraded from over 6 years of use. We will replace them by using more sustainable materials with greater longevity. The new beds will consist of two courses of retaining wall blocks similar to the picture in the appendix.

Goal 2: Replace garden's educational signage that has faded or that is no longer relevant.

The garden is thoughtfully organized into seven distinct themed areas, each managed by an appointed supervisor with a corresponding management plan. We created signs for each mini site, but some have faded, and others no longer match the site's current use:

Food Forest

Kids & Kale

Bountiful Beds

Berms and Basins

Pollination Station

Pumpkin Patch

Compost Creatures

Goal 3: Expand our outreach by increasing community inclusion - wheelchair- and elder-accessible garden beds.

The raised beds will be designed for wheelchairs to comfortably fit underneath and allow the gardener maximum reach without discomfort. They will also make gardening accessible for seniors who find kneeling and bending down difficult.

4. Timetable for Implementation. We assume January will be the starting point; if not, the timeline will be adjusted.

Task	Activities	Date	In-kind Value
Upgrade educational signage	Change sign artwork (3) Signs for gazebo (2 - 24"x 60") Misc signs for bathroom, etc. Print signs (7)	Jan - Feb 2026	0 hours 12 hours 16 hours 0 hours
Install 2 wheelchair and elder-accessible raised beds	Purchase Materials Build and install	Feb -March 2026	40 hours
Garden bed structures replaced	Purchase materials Remove existing wood Install pavers, etc.	March – June 2026	3 hours 16 hours 40 hours
Replace hoop house covers	Remove existing covers Purchase materials Install	September 2026	40 hours 3 hours 50 hours
Rainwater catchment systems	Purchase Materials Install gutters Attach to water totes	Oct – Nov 2026	3 hours 16 hours 6 hours
Pollinator garden upgrade	Purchase plants Planting	Oct – Nov 2026	4 hours 10 hours

B. Resources

1. We estimate the hours of labor contributed by volunteers to this project to be 259. The *Independent Sector* states that the value of each volunteer hour in Arizona is \$ 33.70. On that basis our in-kind contribution to this project is \$ 8,728.30. Our current funding sources for this project are proceeds from our plant sales, individual donations from community members and fundraisers we hold from time to time. These are long-term funding sources. However, even in the long term we do not accumulate enough money for these capital improvements.
2. The Pinal County Agricultural Extension provides helpful services when we ask. For example, we had questions about efficiently irrigating our fruit trees and a horticulturist facilitated a workshop on this topic. We will use her and other experts to conduct hands-on learning experiences for our community.
3. This is a continuing project as it enhances and expands existing projects of the garden. Since our inception in 2017, we have added features requested by gardeners and community members. Our request is for materials to accomplish our goals. We will ask volunteers to continue helping us with maintenance. We use social media to publicize community events that are designed to enhance interest in the garden so we continue to grow.
4.
 - a. Oracle Community Learning Garden is not applying for funds from any other Arizona tribe.
 - b. We have not received funds from any Arizona tribe.

C. Reports

Reports will be submitted by Liz Tuck, Treasurer. Using spreadsheets, Liz reports all deposits and debits. In addition, she keeps a separate ledger for grant projects so that the Board of Directors and the funding source knows exactly how the grant funds were expended. Receipts for expenses are kept and compared to ledger entries.

She has written timely, accurate reports for the following awards: Sprouts Groceries (\$10,000), Pinal County (\$18,000 and \$10,000) and USDA (\$50,000).

The project's progress and outcomes will be evaluated based on our success in achieving the stated goals and adhering to the proposed timeline.

D. Budget

Our request is for \$10,634.50; a detailed budget is attached.

E. Additional Information

The mission of the Oracle Community Learning Garden (OCLG) is to provide opportunities for education, food production and growing a strong community by cultivating common ground. OCLG's work in the world is to enchant, to inspire, and to engage people by creating a vibrant space where all ages of people can meet, garden, compost, and learn.

Prior funding from individuals and organizations has paid for our hoop houses, irrigation system, ramadas, kids' gardens, pollinator garden, and the creation of our tailor-made curriculum for grades 1-6. We do a lot with a little because of our dedicated volunteers and supportive community.

End of Narrative. Budget and Appendix follows

Budget			
ITEM	JUSTIFICATION	COST	TOTAL
Garden bed structures replaced using longer-lasting sustainable materials			
Concrete pavers	208 linear feet 208 – 584 blocks to build 2-layer, durable, long-lasting sides of garden beds	584@2.60	1518.00
Concrete	For paver footings, for 4" x 6" footings need 85, 60 lb. bags	85@4.03	343.00
Post holders	34 metal post bases to support wooden posts	34@13.24	450.00
Wood and screws (includes posts)		1060.00	1060.00
Labor		0	\$0
	Subtotal		3371.00
Replace hoop house covers			
Green-Tek® 6mil Standard Clear Greenhouse Film 36'x100'	Our hoophouse's plastic film cover has deteriorated and needs to be replaced	1@500	500.00
Spring Lock Top PVC Size: 6 ft	Secures greenhouse film to the frame	50@2.00	100.00
Poly Patching Tape Roll 6"x48'	Repairs tears to the plastic film	1@45.00	45.00
Batten Tape 2.75" x 100 yds	Secures plastic in place	5@28.30	141.50
Labor	Volunteer	0	0
	Subtotal		786.50
Upgrade educational signage and create additional signage			
Print signs (7)	6 signs, 11"x17"; 1 sign, 18"x24"	7 signs	350.00
Change artwork/text on signs (3) liaison with printer	Estimate is attached for artwork and final production of 7 signs	7 signs	1160.00
Signs for gazebo (2 - 24"x 60")	Printing and artwork for new informational signs on land history and garden events	2@150	300.00
Misc signs for bathroom, etc.	Printing and artwork for 8 informational and directional signs	8@50.00	400.00
Labor	Install 7 upgraded signs		0
	Subtotal		2,210.00
Install 2 wheelchair- and elder-accessible raised beds			
Materials for raised beds	Wood and irrigation supplies	2@400	800.00
Labor	Build raised beds, Volunteer		0
	Subtotal		800.00

Continues next page

Rainwater catchment systems			
Rain gutters and hardware	100 feet of gutters for rain capture for gazebo and model train station	100@6.65	665.00
IBC Water collection totes (2)	250-gallon rainwater collection tote	2@400	800.00
Labor	Volunteer		0
	Subtotal		1465.00
Pollinator garden upgrade			
Pollinator plants	69 pollinator plants @ \$15 to expand the diversity of our garden	69@15	1035.00
Labor	Plant and label plants, Volunteer		0
	Subtotal		1035.00
TOTAL			\$9,667.50
Administrative fee			
10% of total			\$967.00
		Total	\$10,634.50



Students looking at crops



Family gardens

See Appendix on next page

APPENDIX



Blocks may be used for beds



Original beds before planting



Volunteers erecting a hoop house



Willow trees for Gila River restoration project



Garden Entrance as seen on our web site



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

ORACLE COMMUNITY LEARNING GARDEN INC
PO BOX 5266
ORACLE, AZ 85623

Date:
12/08/2022
Employer ID number:
88-2639109
Person to contact:
Name: Customer Service
ID number: 31954
Telephone: 9877) 829-5500
Accounting period ending:
December 31
Public charity status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:
Yes
Effective date of exemption:
November 30, 2022
Contribution deductibility:
Yes
Addendum applies:
No
DLN:
26053739003902

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

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements