



**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 15th, 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: Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

Contact person/title: Geri Wright, Director of Development and Marketing

Email address: geri.wright@southwestwildlife.org

Address: 27026 N. 156th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Project name: Rescue and Resource Hotline

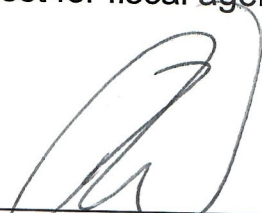
Amount being requested: \$10,000

Project summary: To continue this necessary service, we are looking to offset the costs for our volunteers in order to retain volunteers and equip them for rescues and educational resources.

Beneficiaries: Pinal County residents and wildlife

Supervisor District: We serve across multiple districts within Pinal County, based on where residents call Southwest Wildlife to assist with a wildlife rescue or inquiry. Rich Vitiello (D1), Mike Goodman (D2), Stephen Miller (D3), Jeffrey McClure (D4), and Jeff Serdy (D5)

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 *Ramona Morales*

Name of Applicant: Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

Applicant is a: ☐ City/Town/County (circle)

☒ Other : Nonprofit Organization

Contact Person and Title:

Geri Wright; Director, Development and Marketing

Applicant Address (administrative office):

27026 N. 156th St.

City:

Zip Code:

Scottsdale

85262

Applicant Mailing Address (if different):

PMB 115/ 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd.

City:

Zip Code:

Scottsdale

85255

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

480-881-5535

E-mail Address:

geri.wright@southwestwildlife.org

Fiscal Agent for any Applicant that is not a City, Town, or County

(Special Taxing Districts/Fire Districts must have a Fiscal Agent)

Contact Person:

Heather Patel, Grants Administrator

City/Town/County Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1348

City:

Zip Code:

Florence

85132

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

520-866-6422

E-mail Address:

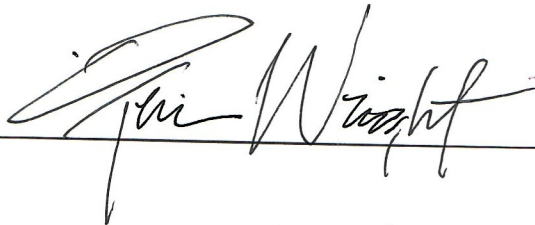
heather.patel@pinal.gov

Program or Project Name:	
Rescue and Resource Hotline	
Priority Area (Check all that apply) ☒ education ☒ public safety ☐ health ☒ environment ☐ promotion of commerce ☐ economic and community development	
Purpose of Grant (brief statement):	
To continue this necessary service, we are looking to offset the costs for our volunteers in order to retain volunteers and equip them for rescues and educational resources. This program is entirely volunteer ran, but there is great difficulty retaining volunteers due to the high costs associated with equipment, gas, and required vaccines.	
Target Audience/Beneficiaries:	
Pinal County residents and wildlife	
Beginning and Ending Date of Program or Project:	
January 1 st 2026- December 31 st 2026	
Amount Requested:	Total Cost:
\$10,000	\$71,500
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: 6/9/25

Typed/Printed Name and Title:

GAZI WRIGHT, Director, Development & Marketing

For the Fiscal Agent: _____ Date: _____

(If applicable)

Typed/Printed Name and Title: _____



To Whom It May Concern:

Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC) invites consideration of a grant from Ak-Chin Tribal Community to support SWCC's Rescue & Resource Hotline. The Hotline serves all counties in Arizona as the only 24/7 call center for wildlife rescues and advice regarding animal/human interactions. Such calls increased 30% from 2023 to 2024, and the trend for calls in 2025 is running even higher.

Southwest Wildlife depends on a half-time paid program manager and ten volunteers who cover their own vaccination and equipment costs and provide private transportation for rescues – on average \$2K per volunteer. To continue and expand this one-of-a-kind service in Arizona requires outside funding to offset expenses that are beyond the reach of most volunteers. We are challenged recruiting and retaining volunteers.

The attached application answers questions about our mission, our operations, and the reasons we seek charitable gifts to continue a critical program.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you seek more information about our work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Raandi Morales".

Raandi Morales

Executive Director

raandi.morales@southwestwildlife.org

Organization History & Mission

Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC) was founded by Linda Searles, a woman with a passion for all living things and a life-changing encounter with an orphaned coyote pup. A local farmer accidentally ran over a den of newborn coyote puppies with his tractor, leaving one survivor. The farmer looked for help for the tiny creature but didn't know where to turn. Fate brought Linda together with the orphaned coyote she later named "Don". At that time, there were no local veterinarians who would treat orphaned or injured wild animals. Linda dreamed of a wildlife rehabilitation center specializing in mammals. And so, the seed of Southwest Wildlife was planted.

Linda's dream became reality with the purchase of 10 acres northeast of Scottsdale, Arizona, in 1994. As trees were planted and enclosures built, that slice of open desert slowly became a shady oasis for wild animals in need. Don Coyote was joined by countless other injured, orphaned, and displaced mammals with no other place to turn. Most animals are rehabilitated and released back into the wild, while those that cannot be released find sanctuary at Southwest Wildlife and live out their lives in peace.

Today, SWCC is one of the leading wildlife sanctuaries and rehab facilities in the southwestern United States, with a mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and release native wildlife mammals that have been injured, displaced, and orphaned. In 2024, 365 animals came to Southwest Wildlife. Of these, 84% of the surviving animals were released back into the wild. SWCC currently cares for 128 permanent sanctuary residents.

Southwest Wildlife has volunteer teams available 24/7 for wildlife emergencies, operates an on-site veterinary hospital, offers wildlife consultation services, and promotes wildlife education and awareness. Its mission is stewarded across central, southern, and northern Arizona, fielding more than 3,000 calls each year through a 24-hour emergency call line.

Need in the Community

Development in Arizona continues at a record pace. As of 2022, approximately 7.3 million people called Arizona home, an increase of 0.9 million people since April 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau 2020). Expanding cities, growing urban areas, and an increasing network of roadways are just some of the many threats to Arizona's wildlife. As Arizona's cities grow to meet this ever-expanding population, Arizona's wildlife and habitats face even greater challenges.

Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center is the only organization in Arizona that offers a 24-hour emergency line and rescue services.

Call volume is steadily increasing, up more than 30% from 2023 to 2024, from 2,327 calls to 3,064 calls. The increased call volume, about 15% of which results in rescues, creates a need for additional trained rescue volunteers.

Currently, the program has eight volunteers trained for the emergency call line, with each volunteer taking a 24-hour shift in rotation, and twelve trained volunteers for rescues. To meet the increased need, SWCC is looking to recruit and train an additional 10 volunteers through necessary funding beginning in 2026. Historically, the program required volunteers to commit their own funds to purchase required equipment and pay for all required immunizations, with a total investment per volunteer of more than \$2,000 to get started, as well as using their own vehicle and paying for their own gasoline, a cost that is prohibitive for many willing volunteers. Support for this program will allow SWCC to underwrite these start-up costs and ongoing costs for committed volunteers.

Rescue Program Design

The SWCC rescue program emergency call line is staffed 24/7 by a group of eight volunteers trained to answer questions, provide educational awareness, make referrals, and dispatch rescue calls. The call line is an active channel for public education. The program provides mammal rescue services across the state, including Pinal County.

Pinal County

While majority of the calls and rescues that SWCC completes are in Maricopa County, approximately 5% of calls come from within Pinal County. In May 2025 alone, SWCC supported Pinal County residents by providing educational resources about a limping coyote reported by several community members, rescuing a bobcat kitten, successfully releasing a skunk back into the wild, and helping an individual re-home another skunk.

We share these individual stories because at SWCC, our mission is to save wildlife, one life at a time. We do not want our life-saving work to Pinal County to be limited by factors such as lack of volunteers or the associated costs with being a wildlife rescuer.

Volunteers, numbering fewer than 10 are the heart of the rescue program. They staff the call line 24/7, answer questions, give advice, and make appropriate referrals.

A dedicated corps of 10 hands-on rescue volunteers travel throughout the state to provide aid and rescue injured mammals. Staff are expecting about 500 rescues in 2025.

Program Goal

To provide education, awareness, and conservation of native wildlife through a 24-hour emergency call line and rescue program.

Purpose/Project for Which Grant Funds Will Be Used

Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC) is seeking grant funding to support the expansion and sustainability of its 24-hour emergency call line and wildlife rescue program. This program provides critical, statewide support for orphaned, injured, and displaced native mammals across Arizona. With urban development rapidly increasing, the demand for wildlife rescue services continues to grow. In response to a 30% increase in call volume from 2023 to 2024, SWCC aims to recruit and train 10 additional emergency and rescue volunteers. This expansion is essential to continue providing timely, effective rescue services throughout the state.

Unique Benefits to the Community That Your Project Provides

SWCC's rescue program is the only one in Arizona that offers a 24-hour emergency line specifically dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of native mammals. With call volume increasing yearly—reaching over 3,000 calls in 2024—this program plays a vital role in community education and wildlife protection. In 2024, 84% of surviving animals treated at SWCC were successfully released back into the wild, contributing directly to the health and stability of Arizona's ecosystems.

The emergency call line is not only a tool for dispatching rescues but also an active channel for public education. Volunteers answer questions, provide guidance, and offer referrals, helping the public coexist peacefully with native wildlife. Additionally, SWCC's work spans the entire state, bringing communities together around a shared goal of wildlife conservation.

Description of How Grant Funds Will Be Used to Support Your Purpose/Project

Grant funds will be used to underwrite the cost of recruiting, training, and equipping 10 new wildlife rescue volunteers in 2026. Currently, new volunteers are expected to pay more than \$2,000 out of pocket for required immunizations and equipment, as well as cover gas and vehicle use for rescue trips—expenses that can be prohibitive for many qualified candidates. There is no additional funding providing for this essential program.

One-year budget covers program expenses for 10 volunteers.					
Expense	Quantity	Frequency	Unit Cost	Total	Notes
Rescue Coordinator FTE = 1	0.5	1	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 21,000	
Crates	20	1	\$ 200.00	\$ 4,000	Used by all volunteers all year
Towels	1	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000	Projecting 500 rescues in 2025, with about 3 towels per rescue. *Some towels are donated, but each year's budget need to project for towel purchases, in case donations do not fill the need.
Slack	50	12	\$ 7.25	\$ 4,350	Staff and volunteer communication program. Budgeted for 40 staff and 10 volunteers x 12 months.
Volunteer: Pre-exposure vaccines	10	1	\$ 900.00	\$ 9,000	One-time cost per volunteer
Volunteer: Tetanus	10	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 500	Repeated every 5 years per volunteer
Volunteer: Titer Check	10	1	\$ 75.00	\$ 750	Repeated every 2 years per volunteer
Volunteer: Booster	10	1	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,000	Repeated every 2 years per volunteer
Volunteer: Rescue Net	10	1	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,500	Replaced approximately every 2 years per volunteer
Volunteer: Catch Pole	10	1	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,500	Replaced approximately every 2 years per volunteer
Volunteer: Gloves	10	1	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,500	Replaced approximately every 5 years per volunteer
Volunteer: Sorting Board	10	1	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,000	One-time cost per volunteer
Volunteer: Head Lamp	10	1	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,000	Replaced approximately every 2 years per volunteer
Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement	10	12	\$ 120.00	\$ 14,400	Average monthly cost for gas per volunteer
TOTAL				\$ 71,500	



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

In reply refer to: 0248360116
Sep. 11, 2014 LTR 4168C 0
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BODC: TE

SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
CENTER
8711 E PINNACLE PEAK RD
SCOTTSDALE AZ 85255



012805

Employer Identification Number: 86-0765249
Person to Contact: Ms. Harper
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your Sep. 02, 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 September 1994.

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.