



**PINAL COUNTY**  
WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY

**Proposition 202 Tribal Gaming  
Application Support Form**

Name of Tribal Entity: Due Date:	
Name of Nonprofit Organization:	
Contact Person:	
Contact Person Title:	
Mailing Address:	
Street Address:	
Phone:	
E-mail: This will be the email address the resolution and signed coversheet will be sent when completed.	
Website Address:	
Attachment Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application Support Form</li><li>• IRS 501 © 3 designation letter</li><li>• Completed application including coversheet</li></ul>
Project Name:	
Amount of Funding Being Requested:	
Summary of Project:	
Summary of How Project Benefits Pinal County Residents	
Name and Signature of Agency Director:	

## 2022 Tohono O'odham Grant Proposal

Since 1993, Seeds of Hope Inc., located in rural Casa Grande, Arizona, has promoted opportunities to improve lives through relationships and community development. Our programs address felt needs in our community and participating is always free of charge. Currently we offer these five programs, in addition to community development.

- Hot Lunch– Serving meals and emergency food boxes to food insecure individuals and families. In 2021 we served 11,000 meals.
- Afterschool–Providing tutoring and structured activities to underserved families. Last year we served 55 kids throughout the school year.
- Community Garden–Growing seasonal fruits and vegetables to share with the community. Over 315 lbs. of produce came from the garden in 2021.
- Free Medical Clinic–Treating the uninsured and underinsured. On average, the clinic treats 100 patients throughout the year.
- Senior Connections / Los Angeles de Esperanza - Encouraging senior adults to stay active mind, body, and spirit. More than 25 seniors currently participate.

This application includes a request for two programs: Hot Lunch and Senior Connections addressing the Cultural & Environmental Development and Protection priority area.

The Hot Lunch program meets the needs of the food insecure in Casa Grande, Arizona. **Food-insecure** households are uncertain of having, or unable to acquire, enough food to meet their needs due to insufficient money or other resources for food. Most food insecure people that we encounter in this area are homeless, working poor, or at-risk individuals and families. The program provides heated meals Monday through Saturday year 'round at Fountains of Living Water Church, a Casa Grande church located on Second Street in the downtown area, that donates the use of their kitchen and dining area.

Seeds of Hope is the only organization providing a (charity) daily hot meal in the Casa Grande area.

The food served is prepared and donated by St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix, retrieved by Seeds of Hope's volunteer drivers. They had been using our 1999 Dodge Dakota Truck to drive the 100-mile round-trip several days per week, 52 weeks per year. The 1999 Dodge Dakota Truck had 155,000+ miles on it and due to its age and unexpected but costly repairs we have since switched vehicles to our 15-passenger van. The success of our hot lunch program hinges on reliable transportation to transport the food. The age, maintenance needs, insurance, and upkeep our current vehicle jeopardizes the continuation of meeting the needs of the food insecure individuals we serve.

The transported food is then served from a steam table under the supervision of a part-time program coordinator. The coordinator oversees volunteer drivers, volunteer servers and community service

workers to manage the overall tasks necessary to the program. Additionally, she oversees the facility, assuring the program meets all health and legal requirements for serving and storing food.

When not being used for food pickup and delivery, the van is used to support other existing programs: the Afterschool program, and Senior Connections. The Afterschool program has 80 children on the roster, with approximately 45 attending daily.

The van is used to support programs for the children like 4H, approximately once per week. The Senior Connections program serves seniors living in poverty in Casa Grande and is attended by 25 participants per week. The van is used to pick up and transport supplies for these programs.

Our first request to the Tohono O'odham community is for funds to purchase a replacement truck so the van can be designated for the other programs. This meets the Tohono O'odham 12% Grant guidelines of support services that benefit the public, which include programs in the area of health.

**Goals and Objectives of Hot Lunch Program:**

Goal: Provide heated meal for the food insecure six days per week in Casa Grande.

- Objective 1: Acquire donated food from Saint Vincent de Paul in Phoenix
- Action 1.1: Secure replacement truck
- Action 1.2: Schedule and supervise volunteer drivers
- Objective 2: Serve hot lunches
- Action 2.1: Schedule and supervise volunteer servers
- Action 2.2: Maintain luncheon facility and equipment, meeting health standards

Currently, nearly 1 in 3 children, 1 in 5 Arizonans, and 1 in 7 seniors in Arizona live in poverty. Arizona's hunger rates are 2% higher than the national average at 17.8% according to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance 2012 report. Two million Arizonans are considered working poor, living at or below the Federal Poverty Guideline. By improving access to food for children and adults, the Seeds of Hope program improves the health and overall quality of life for participants.

The Hot Lunch provides a heated meal to food insecure individuals and families free of charge. After three meals, participants are asked to sign up to complete a chore at the end of the lunch hour as a way of contributing to the service provided to them. In 2021 an average of 50 participants were served daily amounting to approximately 11,000 meals annually. This included 44 adults and 6 children. We never turn anyone away.

The program aids in the reduction of people who live in food poverty by providing easy access to hot nutritious meal by using our vehicle to acquire and transport the food from St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix. Dependable transportation is critical to meeting the needs of the food insecure through the Hot Lunch program.

Our primary funding source is donations from individuals, local churches, and local small foundations. While never guaranteed, the charity of caring people is our sole long-term funding source and has

been since the inception of the program. Approximately 10% of our funding for this project comes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for feeding the homeless.

Other organizations partner with us to meet needs of the food insecure in Casa Grande but are not funding sources. Saint Vincent de Paul in Phoenix provides warmed food each day. The Casa Grande food bank provides surplus staple items for distribution in emergency food boxes. Local RV park resident activity committees donate hygiene kits, blankets, bottled water, and clothing throughout the year. Local restaurants like Olive Garden, Chick-Fil-A, Chipotle, Pizza Hut donate unsold food through the Second Harvest program. Bread from a day-old bakery is picked up weekly by our volunteers with our vehicle.

### Budget

<b>*Proposed budget item</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>Anticipated date of expending funds</b>
Truck	\$36,500	Within 90 days of receiving grant
taxes/license / registration	\$3,100	Upon purchase of vehicle
Insurance	\$2,400	Annual expense, first month of truck purchase
Senior Connections	\$10,000	Covers program \$ shortfall from CBDG Grant allocation for 2022

### **SENIOR CONNECTIONS**

The Senior Connections program called “Angeles de Esperanza” offers socialization opportunities 5 days per week, including coffee hour, board games (loteria) and cards, puzzles and crafts and most recently sewing machines. The seniors have access to a resource center specific to their needs and interests, including brochures and referral information. They also have access to the MACC's computer lounge and tutoring for basic computer literacy.

Workshops/presentations are provided by outside partners, such as Sun Life Family Health Center and The University of Arizona Cooperative on health/well-being, nutrition topics, and exercise or fall prevention. The current wellness clinic is available on site for all the participants one Saturday per month. Field trips to arts or social events outside the area are available, based on interest by the clients. A needs and interest assessment will be conducted early in the program year, and ongoing throughout the year, to determine and respond to participant interests/needs.

Our program began in 2017. By 2018 we had 28 regular participants. In 2019 we have 32 regularly attending participants, as well as approximately 10 visitor drop-ins who come on occasion (friends or relatives). In 2022, we anticipate adding 8 new regularly attending participants to the program. Many seniors involved in this program volunteer at our afterschool program. As we invest in them, they turn around and invest in another Seeds of Hope program.

**Why services are needed:** Poverty affects senior health if the individual is unable to afford medical care, medication, and other senior health and lifestyle needs. Older adults report many more physically unhealthy days than younger adults. According to the Center for Disease Control's State of Aging and Health in America 2013 report, "Although social ties are one of the strongest predictors of well-being, about 12% of adults aged 65 or older report that they "rarely" or "never" receive the social and emotional support they need." By improving low-income senior adults' health and nutrition, and reducing social isolation, the Seeds of Hope Angeles de Esperanza program will improve the participants' quality of life.

The Senior Connections program is currently supported by a CBDG grant with the goal of improving the quality of life for senior adults living in Census Block Groups 2 and 3 of Casa Grande. Unfortunately, the funding has been decreased significantly from the previous level through 6/21-6/22. There is a shortfall of \$10,000.

**Goals and Objectives of Senior Connections program:**

Goal: Provide socialization opportunities for seniors 55+ to connect in Casa Grande.

- Objective 1: Acquire CBDG funding to support program supervisor
- Action 1.1: Secure the \$10,000 that was decreased in the CBDG funding amount through 2023.

With **\$52,000**, we envision two enhancements to current programming. First, the Hot Lunch program would have reliable transportation to support in bringing meals from Saint Vincent de Paul in downtown Phoenix. By purchasing this truck, it would allow our 15-passenger van to be used to support other existing programs. Second, adding \$10,000 would allow us to move forward with our Senior Connections program despite the decreased funding amount from the CBDG allocation. Both programs primarily serve a minority population in rural AZ community and all participants are considered low income. Seeds of Hope has not previously received a 12% distribution from the Tohono O'odham Nation. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Designated Contact Person: Aaron Anaya

Email: [aaron@seedsofhopeaz.com](mailto:aaron@seedsofhopeaz.com) Phone: (520) 705-8550

Address: 702 E. Cottonwood, Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Alternate Contact Person: Terri Durham

Email: [terri@seedsofhopeaz.com](mailto:terri@seedsofhopeaz.com) Phone: (520) 836-6335

Address: 702 E. Cottonwood, Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Non-Profit Organization: Seeds of Hope

City: Casa Grande, AZ

County: Pinal

P. O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Date: November 19, 2001

Seeds of Hope, Inc.  
% Susan K. Sanders  
702 E. Cottonwood Ln.  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222-2703

**Person to Contact:**

Tonya Martin 31-07387  
Customer Service Representative

**Toll Free Telephone Number:**

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. EST  
877-829-5500

**Fax Number:**

513-263-3756

**Federal Identification Number:**

86-0706004

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is in response to your telephone call requesting a copy of your organization's determination letter. This letter will take the place of the copy you requested.

Our records indicate that a determination letter issued in September 1997 granting your organization exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. That letter is still in effect.

Based on information subsequently submitted, we classified your organization as one that is not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because it is an organization described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

This classification was based on the assumption that your organization's operations would continue as stated in the application. If your organization's sources of support, or its character, method of operations, or purposes have changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on the exempt status and foundation status of your organization.

Your organization is required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if its gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$20 a day, up to a maximum of \$10,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

All exempt organizations (unless specifically excluded) are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more paid to each employee during a calendar year. Your organization is not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, these organizations are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes.

Donors may deduct contributions to your organization as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to your organization or for its 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.

## REGISTRATION VERIFICATION FROM SAM.GOV

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Seeds of Hope, Inc.  
86-0706004

Your organization is not required to file federal income tax returns unless it is subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If your organization is subject to this tax, it must file an income tax return on the Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your organization's present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

The law requires you to make your organization's annual return available for public inspection without charge for three years after the due date of the return. You are also required to make available for public inspection a copy of your organization's exemption application, any supporting documents and the exemption letter to any individual who requests such documents in person or in writing. You can charge only a reasonable fee for reproduction and actual postage costs for the copied materials. The law does not require you to provide copies of public inspection documents that are widely available, such as by posting them on the Internet (World Wide Web). You may be liable for a penalty of \$20 a day for each day you do not make these documents available for public inspection (up to a maximum of \$10,000 in the case of an annual return).

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your organization's exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it with the organization's permanent records.

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

This letter affirms your organization's exempt status.

Sincerely,



John E. Ricketts, Director, TE/GE  
Customer Account Services