



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">• Application Support Form• IRS 501 © 3 designation letter• Completed application including coversheet
Project Name:	
Amount of Funding Being Requested:	
Summary of Project:	
Summary of How Project Benefits Pinal County Residents	
Name and Signature of Agency Director:	

CINCINNATI OH 45999-0038

In reply refer to: 0248367584
Aug. 19, 2016 LTR 4168C 0
86-0517082 000000 00
00022043
BODC: TE

RAISING SPECIAL KIDS
5025 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX AZ 85034



007271

Employer ID Number: 86-0517082
Form 990 required: Yes

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your request dated Aug. 10, 2016, regarding your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in October 1985, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

Our records also indicate you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If a return is required, you must file Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, or 990-PF by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. IRC Section 6033(j) provides that, if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked on the filing due date of the third required return or notice.

For tax forms, instructions, and publications, visit www.irs.gov or call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 1-877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific Time).

0248367584
Aug. 19, 2016 LTR 4168C 0
86-0517082 000000 00
00022044

RAISING SPECIAL KIDS
5025 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX AZ 85034

Sincerely yours,

Doris P. Kenwright

Doris Kenwright, Operation Mgr.
Accounts Management Operations 1



Raising
Special
Kids



May 24, 2022

Chairman Ned Norris, Jr.
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634

Dear Members of the Tohono O'odham Nation,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this application for support of Raising Special Kids (RSK) and the vulnerable children and families we serve. Please consider contributing \$5,000 to our Navigation, Coaching Support-4-AZ Families program that improves families' health literacy and understanding of their child's developmental disability or special health care need to make well-informed care decisions.

Organization summary: Established in 1979, Raising Special Kids' (RSK) mission is to strengthen families and systems of care to improve outcomes for children who have a disabilities and special health care needs. Our vision is to ensure families of children with disabilities and special health care needs have the support, information, training, and hope they need to raise their child to reach their highest potential.

Today, we serve as Arizona's Family-to-Family Health Information Center, and as Arizona's Parent Training and Information Center. Our programs are available in English and Spanish and offered at no cost to families. The disability community relies on our programs and services, and looks to us for the most credible, up-to-date support for their families' needs. Each year, we touch the lives of over 9,000 families looking for assistance.

a) Explain the perceived need and explain how the proposal will address that need.

Need: There is a real need by families of children with disabilities for help navigating complex care systems. According to a 2020 ProPublica article, "Fewer than [30%] of the estimated 157,000 Arizonans with developmental disabilities receive any home or community-based services, and an even smaller number [receive assistance] designed to allow a person to live as independently as possible." Author Amy Silverman did extensive research and found that from 2016 to 2020, approximately 40% of people who applied for Arizona's Division of Developmental Disabilities assistance were denied. Nearly half of applicants were denied because of incomplete applications or insufficient medical documentation.

In the most recent study, the CDC reported 1 in 6 children living in the United States have at least one developmental disability and 1 in 5 children have a substantial health care need. "Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas" (CDC). These include autism spectrum disorder (ASD), attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyslexia,



hearing loss, blindness, seizure disorders, bipolar disorder, and cerebral palsy. A 2019 study published in *Pediatrics* shows the prevalence of developmental disability is rising. Children, aged 3-17, diagnosed with a developmental disability increased from 16.2% to 17.8% between 2009 and 2017. These are the most recent studies available.

Children with disabilities and special health care needs have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. We have yet to fully realize the impact of COVID-19 on children with disabilities; however, professionals and parents already see regressions. A study conducted by the Easter Seals Foundation found that almost all children with significant disabilities (93%) have missed milestones due to the pandemic compared to approximately 54% of their non-disabled peers.

The COVID-19 pandemic created new challenges to accessing education, mental and behavioral health treatment, and developmental evaluation. Medical office and school closures forced long delays in care. Families experienced drastic changes in delivery of home and community-based services administered by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities, and Arizona's Early Intervention program. Parents must understand these changing models and how to work within them to achieve positive health and education outcomes for their child.

Arizona ranks in the bottom fifth for quality of health care nationwide (McCann, 2020). Support services, such as occupational and speech therapies, special education plans, and behavioral interventions, should have been coordinated from their beginnings. Instead, they were developed separately over decades, which resulted in ineffective and overly complicated systems. Arizona finally transitioned to an integrated support services model in 2018 but accessing behavioral and other special health care services for children remains prohibitively difficult for many families. This barrier is an additional burden on families who have a child with a disability or more substantial health care need.

Program: Most RSK staff members are parents of children with disabilities who can forge a unique connection with the families we serve based on experience, empathy, and trust. A typical family who seeks support and resources from RSK is struggling to navigate the health care and education systems for their child with a disability or special health care need. More than 30% of parents seek assistance managing their child's behaviors. Managing challenging behavior can be stressful, but the behavior indicates there is a problem in learning and not in the person.

RSK provides training and expert guidance to help families understand pathways to treatments, providers, insurance coverage, and special education supports. Families gain skills to act independently on their child's behalf in the future. Our program empowers families and lessens their dependence on outside advisors or future RSK guidance.

Communicating with parents about the services available in the community is vital for these families to survive and thrive. The RSK team implements outreach strategies to increase referrals to RSK from schools, pediatricians, and other community partners in Pinal County. We want families to know there are resources to help them on their journey of raising their child – and that they have a support system in place.

b) Describe the population who will benefit from the proposal if approved

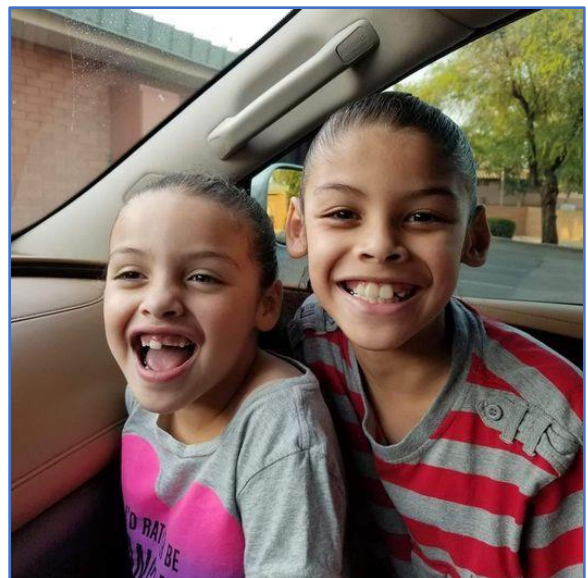
In order to increase access to specialized care, and promote health equity, RSK does not have strict eligibility criteria, only that a family have an infant, child, youth, or young adult who has a suspected or diagnosed disability or special health care need. Families that have a child with a diagnosed disability, or suspect their child has a disability, are eligible to receive our services. RSK is committed to never turning anyone away due to financial reasons; we provide services at no cost. Cost is one of the largest barriers families face navigating health care and education systems. Medical care is extremely expensive for children with disabilities and special health care needs. Additionally, private advisors that can help guide families with special education planning are often cost prohibitive.

RSK has a prominent client base of refugees and utilizes translation services to ensure they are adequately supported. Language can be a significant barrier for families trying to access services for their child. Benefits administrators, health care providers, and special educators often do not speak Spanish. Over half of our Family Support Specialists are bilingual in English and Spanish. We assist families to effectively communicate to advocate for their child’s needs.

RSK is committed to ensuring that persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in our services, activities, and programs. The policy of Raising Special Kids is to ensure meaningful communication with LEP clients so they can benefit from the training and information available to parents and family members raising a child who has a disability and young adults with disabilities.

c) Include a budget of the requested funds, with the total amount requested clearly notated.

Expenses	
Consultants and Professional Fees	\$1,000
Rent/Utilities/Phone	\$4,376
Salaries and Wages	\$76,860
Travel	\$1,106
Training/Software	\$5,314
Federal Indirect Cost Rate	\$11,190
Fingerprinting	\$154
Total	\$100,000
Revenue	
Tohono O’odham Nation	\$5,000
Government Grants and Contracts	\$40,000
Individual Donations and other Grants	\$55,000
Total	\$100,00





Raising
Special
Kids

d) List any other funding request that have been made for this or substantially related proposals and provide the status of those requests.

RSK has pending requests for funding with APS West for \$5,000, City of Avondale for \$10,000, ACF of Cochise for \$3,500, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for \$15,000, Gila River Indian Community for \$50,000, and Pinal County for \$20,000.

e) Indicate whether the entity has previously received a 12% distribution from the Tohono O'odham Nation or other Arizona tribes, along with the amount and date awarded.

RSK has not received a 12% distribution from the Tohono O'odham Nation. In 2021, RSK was awarded \$15,000 from Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for the Navigation, Coaching Support-4-AZ Families, and \$20,000 from Ak Chin Indian Community for the Parent Education Program.

f) Identify a designated contact person and alternate contact person for follow up. Include the following information for each contact person: email address, phone number, mailing address, and fax number.

Designated Contact: Christopher Tiffany, Executive Director

Email Address: christophert@raisingspecialkids.org

Phone Number: 602-242-4366

Mailing Address: 5025 E Washington Street, Suite 204, Phoenix, AZ 85034

Fax Number: 602-242-4306

Alternate Contact Person: Anna Burgmann

Email Address: annab@raisingspecialkids.org

Phone: 602-242-4366

Mailing Address: 5025 E. Washington Street, Suite 204, Phoenix, AZ 85034

Fax Number: 602-242-4306

g) Indicate which priority area the proposal falls under: Health Care

h) If the proposal is from a non-profit organization, include the name of the city, town or county and agreement will be made with if funds are granted.

RSK has an agreement with Pinal County. Pinal County will work with RSK to the benefit of the Navigation, Coaching Support-4-AZ Families program if we receive grant funding.

On behalf of the families we serve, thank you for your time and consideration to support these vital programs.

Sincerely,

Christopher Tiffany, Executive Director