



PINAL COUNTY

WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY

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 7, 2023

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: Raising Special Kids

Contact person/title: Tori May, Development Director

Email address: torim@raisingspecialkids.org

Address: 5025 E Washington St., Suite 204, Phoenix, AZ 85034-2005

Project name: Navigation, Coaching Support-4-AZ Families

Amount being requested: \$50,000

Project summary: Raising Special Kids proposes to serve 100 Pinal County families who have a child with a disability or special health care need learn to navigate the complicated health care and education systems. This program builds families' capacity to understand the nature of their child's disability and enhance their skills in advocating for, and securing, educational and health services to improve their child's long-term health outcomes.

Beneficiaries: 100 unduplicated families living in Pinal County whose children have disabilities or special health care need will be served at no cost. We serve families representing all races and ethnicities and their children, ages birth to 26 years, who have a developmental disability or more substantial health care need. Approximately 30% of the families we serve live below the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Supervisor District: Our services are provided in all five districts of Pinal County.

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.

Christopher Tiffany, Executive Director



A. Purpose of Grant.

- 1. Describe the proposed program, project or purchase (collectively, the “Project”). This description should identify the needs/issues the Project will address.**

Raising Special Kids (RSK) respectfully requests a grant of \$50,000 to support services to families whose children have disabilities and special health care needs through our **Navigation, Coaching Support-4-AZ Families** program in Pinal County. Our program is client-focused, community-based and provides teaching, modeling, and training for Pinal County families and is delivered at no cost. We also connect families with community resources, providers, and services that will help improve their child’s long-term health, academic success, independence, and self-sufficiency into adulthood.

The CDC reports 1 in 6 children living in the U.S. has at least one developmental disability, and 1 in 5 children has a more substantial special health care need. In Arizona, the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) 2022 Family Support Annual Report shows that more than 30,000 children and adolescents (ages birth through 21 years), our target population, were eligible for services as of June 30, 2022. To be eligible for DDD services, a child must, “have at least one of four diagnoses manifested before the age of 18 that is likely to continue indefinitely.” These children’s families are tasked with navigating complex, bureaucratic, overlapping systems for the care of their child, which can become a barrier to accessing the services they need, all while attempting to manage the daily challenges that their child may face. Unfortunately, families have also experienced a drastic decrease in traditional supports over the past few years due to the impact the pandemic had on health and education systems.

In fact, RSK fields more than 11,000 calls each year from Arizona families looking for assistance. More than 30% of inquires come from parents seeking assistance managing their child’s behaviors. RSK has also seen a 20% increase in requests since the pandemic from families seeking assistance with special education concerns for their child. Many parents come to us feeling stressed, anxious, and overwhelmed.

RSK’s services are unique because they are delivered by staff members who have a personal, lived experience in common with the families we serve. Most of our staff has a child with a disability or special health care need and have years of experience navigating the systems. Our staff lend an understanding ear and assist families in identifying and locating appropriate resources.

- 2. Identify the target population that will be served by the Project. (Who will benefit? How many will be served? Is there a targeted geographic location? Etc.)**

The population who will benefit are families that are seeking help, resources, and referrals to better understand and care for their child with a recent diagnosis, disability, behavioral challenge, and/or special health care need. Raising Special Kids (RSK) will serve 100 families throughout Pinal County who have concerns about a child, youth, or young adult living with a diagnosed or suspected disability. Children are served at all stages of development from ages birth to 26 years.



Approximately 13% of Pinal County children (under 18) live below the poverty line, according to current Census Reporter website data. The World Population website currently reports that the Pinal County child dependency ratio is approximately 40% and population by race is as follows: 76.76% White, 6.9% Two or more races, 5.1% Other race, 4.74% Native American, 4.5% African American, 1.65% Asian, and 0.35% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. RSK's program will serve families from these demographics.

RSK performs community outreach and has numerous referral partners throughout Pinal County, which will help connect us to families in need of our program.

3. Describe the Project goals and objectives and outline a plan to meet these goals.

RSK's Navigation, Coaching Support-4-AZ Families program goals include serving 100 Pinal County families to increase their knowledge to make informed decisions for their child's care and build skills to work with providers and educators to secure services that meet the unique needs of their child. Our long-term objective is for families to become effective advocates and secure care and services for their children to grow to reach their highest potential.

Our short-term goals are that through the program, 100 Pinal County families will:

1. Learn how to navigate the health care system currently operating under Medicaid flexibilities to address the specific needs of their child.
2. Increase health literacy (learning about and processing health information and specific diagnoses) to make well-informed decisions about their child's complex health and/or behavioral needs.

Our medium-term objectives are that families will experience an increased quality of life, as evidenced through pre- and post- session/course survey data. Families will report 85%, or above, agreement on the following survey items:

- I feel prepared to use the knowledge I gained.
- The support I received was useful in helping me address a problem or issue I am having.
- I found the information and materials high quality.
- I would recommend RSK to a friend or family member.

Our plan to meet these goals follow established, best practice program activities including:

- Strategic outreach to Pinal County families to increase awareness/understanding of our services.
- Individual 1:1 direct assistance to parents and families.
- Individualized problem solving.
- Education on rights and responsibilities under federal entitlement programs.

RSK focuses on health care, training, and education to help families achieve their goals and move forward. RSK would like to continue to grow and expand our staff capacity to reach more families in need throughout Arizona, including Pinal County.

4. Provide a timetable for implementation of the Project.

The Navigation, Coaching Support-4-AZ Families activities are on-going throughout the 1-year grant period. Families can access our services at any time during this term.

B. Resources.



1. Identify current funding sources for the Project and characterize each funding source listed as either a one-time-only or long-term funding source.

RSK is seeking one-year funding for this Pinal County-based program from Pinal County Board of Supervisors, which is a one-time funding source. Other funding sources for our program in Pinal County include insurance reimbursements for qualifying services, which is a long-term source of funding but only covers partial services for families. We also supplement funding with individual donations, which is typically a one-time funding source.

2. Identify other organizations or partners that are participating in or contributing to the Project, but which are not funding sources, and describe their roles or contributions.

RSK has established long-standing relationships with school districts in Pinal County, Head Start programs, and local therapy providers. These relationships will be leveraged to promote the program and identify parents and families that need, would benefit from, and want to participate in the program. Partner agencies include: the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Arizona's Early Intervention Program, the Rehabilitation Services Administration/Vocational Rehabilitation, Arizona Department of Health Services, the Arizona Department of Education, Arizona's Medicaid program (AHCCCS), and many more. These entities currently support projects or collaborative activities with RSK and comprise a statewide referral network of over 300 organizations.

3. Define the Project as a new or continuing project or a purchase. Provide information about how the Project will be sustained or the purchase will be maintained after the grant funding is exhausted.

This is a continuing program. RSK has many sources of diverse agency revenue that contributes to our programming and sustainability. These sources include tax credit donations, special events, government contracts, and foundation and corporate grants. We also bill insurance for select services, which adds an additional, consistent source of revenue.

4. If the Applicant organization has requested funding from any other Arizona tribe, please list:

a. Pending requests made within the last eighteen (18) months, including the name of the tribe to which the request was made and a brief summary of the project for which a grant was requested.

Pending requests to other tribal governments include: Gila River Indian Community – Positive Parenting education and navigating education and health care systems for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs in Maricopa County. Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation – Navigating education and health care systems for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs in the City of Phoenix.

b. Funded requests made in the last five (5) years, including the name of the tribe that awarded the funding, a brief summary of the project for which the funding was awarded, and the amount of the funding received.

Funded requests: Ak-Chin Indian Community – Navigating education and health care systems in 20/21 (\$20,000), in 21/22 (\$50,000), and in 22/23 (\$50,000); Fort McDowell Indian Community – Positive behavior parent support in 2021 (\$7,000) and in 21/22 (\$15,000).



C. Reports. *Approved grantees must report back to the Community about the use of all grants. Outline how your organization will account for and manage the funding if selected. Describe how Project progress and results will be tracked and documented.*

RSK has successfully managed multi-million-dollar state and federal contracts and grant awards for several decades. We have also successfully managed corporate and foundation grants. RSK is an excellent steward of all grant awards and has the staff capacity to manage them.

RSK staff keeps records from intake to case closure for each family receiving services. Staff collect pre- and post-survey data to evaluate and share with key stakeholders. All documentation is stored in a secure online database.

RSK has always provided timely reports of our activities and management of funds granted to us from the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

D. Budget. *Provide a budget, including justification, that supports the request in the Application. Provide an estimated timeline for when funds will be expended.*

Program Budget	Expenses	Amount requested from Ak-Chin Indian Community	Amount funded by other sources
Direct Staff Salaries	\$96,900	\$30,000	\$66,900
Payroll Taxes/Benefits	\$24,150	\$7,000	\$17,150
Professional & Contracted Services	\$500	\$0	\$500
Travel/Mileage	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Rent	\$3,181	\$2,000	\$1,181
Program Equipment/Supplies	\$7,769	\$5,000	\$3,069
Other/Misc.	\$500	\$0	\$500
Admin.	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Total Budget	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$100,000

*All funds will be expended within a one-year timeframe.

E. Additional information. *Please provide any additional information about the Project or the Applicant organization that the Ak-Chin Council should know when considering the Application.*

RSK would like to provide more information to the Ak-Chin Council about steps we take to improve equity in our services as a result of our own internal evaluations. Improving equity begins with our leadership through evaluation of our programs, outcomes, and employment practices. We foster a culture of inclusion and seek to respond to the needs of our clients, even as they change. Further, when inequities are identified at service completion by direct feedback or through staff observation, RSK program staff and leadership discuss these concerns at their regular meetings. As with many organizations, RSK is taking steps such as modifying language in surveys to be more inclusive as our community changes. We also emphasize recruitment practices that bring diversity to our organization.

Our Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring that the needs and perspectives of families and children with the full range of disabilities, from birth to age 26, are represented and remain the consistent



Raising
Special
Kids

Ak-Chin Indian Community
2023 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application
Raising Special Kids

focus of the project. The Board meets six times a year to review activities of the organization. They nominate, interview, and approve all new Board members. The Nominating Committee supports the Board's efforts in identifying and recruiting candidates who fill the critical gaps in representation of skills and diversity. Our hiring process follows the same standards, and RSK seeks to hire staff representative of the community we serve.

We have attached a story to share the impact our programs have on families in the community. Please enjoy this example of the positive effects made possible with your support. Thank you for consideration of this request and for your generosity with previous funding.

Sincerely,

Christopher Tiffany M.A. Ed.
Executive 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