

Against Abuse, Inc.
Tohono O’odham Nation
12% Gaming Distribution Grant Application (2021)

1. The Perceived Need and How This Proposal will Address the Need
Against Abuse, Inc. (AAI) is Proposing Two Purposes for this Grant
Air Cleaners

One purpose of this application is to request air cleaners for 17 air conditioning units to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, its variants, and other airborne pathogens, at all of AAI’s service sites.

According to the Pinal County Public Health Department, COVID is very much still prevalent in Pinal County. The total number of COVID-19 cases is 52,839, with total deaths at 890. Although, according to the ADHS Epi Curve, new cases are slowing but still are significant (51 cases on 05/25/21) and on 06/01/21, out of 599,052 tests conducted, 10.3% tested were positive. The hospitalization ratio is at almost 8%. [Pinal County Online - Pinal County \(pinalcountyz.gov\)](#). According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, as of 06/01/21, only 32% of the Pinal County population is vaccinated [ADHS - Home \(azdhs.gov\)](#).

Pinal County has 77 congregate settings with confirmed COVID-19 cases, including childcare settings (28), workplace environments (18), prisons/detention centers (13), long-term care facilities (9), assisted living facilities (6), rehabilitation facilities (1), outpatient clinics (1), and other (1) [ADHS - Congregate Settings with Positive COVID-19 Cases \(azdhs.gov\)](#).

According to the CDC, COVID-19 is spread by breathing small droplets and particles that contain the virus, having small droplets and particles that contain virus land on the eyes, nose, or mouth, or touching eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have the virus on them. One of the ways to protect oneself is to avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces and improve ventilation. [How Coronavirus Spreads | CDC](#)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency indicates there is data that air cleaners using bipolar ionization help remove viruses, “including SARS-2-CoV-d, the virus that causes COVID-19” from the air, or to facilitate surface disinfection of surfaces within a treated area.” [Air Cleaners, HVAC Filters, and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | US EPA](#)

Systematic review studies have found that much of the research on HVAC systems’ influence on the spread of COVID-19 is that “ventilation has a crucial role in preventing COVID-19 expansion in indoor air environments,” (<https://www.ejosdr.com/download/ventilation-systems-and-covid-19-spread-evidence-from-a-systematic-review-study-10845.pdf>). Another study has concluded that there was “sufficient evidence of the airborne transmission of coronaviruses in previous Asian outbreaks” where poor filtration in HVAC systems could have played a role in increasing the rate of transmission (<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/17/6052>). Additionally, effective ventilation has been identified as one of the six basic COVID-19 control strategies, demonstrating the importance for AAI to address this under-performing prevention strategy.

The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) state that “Airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-d is significant and should be controlled. Changes to building operations, including the operation of heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems, can reduce the airborne concentration of SARS-CoV-d and thus the risk of transmission through the air.” On January 6, 2021, the ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force provided core recommendations for reducing airborne infection aerosol exposure. In their “ventilation, filtration and air cleaning” section, they suggest using combinations of filters and air cleaners that achieve MERV 13 or better levels of performance for air recirculated by HVAC systems. [COVID-19: Resources Available to Address Concerns \(ashrae.org\)](#)

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Although county-wide vaccination rates are at 32%, victims of domestic and/or sexual violence may not be vaccinated (based on informal/anecdotal conversations) at that rate. When considering factors of power and control, abusers very often control a victim’s every move, including whether or not they go to a doctor for their physical or behavioral health needs, obtain their prescribed medications, and in this case, obtain a vaccination. Victims of sexual assault usually do not have knowledge or control over the contagious or vaccination status of their perpetrator and are at greater risk of exposure. Although we have provided financial incentives for staff to vaccinate, only 38% of staff are fully vaccinated due to apprehension of the vaccine and its potential impact on their health and privacy, political beliefs, or their cultural history of trauma that is the foundation for their reluctance to vaccinate. As a result, AAI’s facilities pose a similar risk of exposure to pathogens transmitted via droplets in the air or on surfaces after having fallen from the air when compared to other congregate facilities and work environments in Pinal County.

Security System

A second purpose of this application is to purchase a security system for AAI’s currently unsecured service site at 119 N. Florence Street in Casa Grande, heretofore referred to as the 119 site. AAI has security systems at all of our sites with the exception of the 119 site. We provide a variety of services for victims of domestic and/or sexual violence at this site, such as Mobile and Community Based Services, Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange, initial services for victims seeking safety and services, and thrift store vouchers for victims as well as the local homeless population.

2. Target Population Who Will Benefit from this Proposal

In FY 2019-2020, AAI served almost 900 victims of domestic and/or sexual violence. Two crisis shelters provided 13,786 bed nights for 378 victims (216 adults, 162 children). Our Transitional living sites provided 11,660 bed nights for 50 victims (23 adults, 27 children). 136 families received 2,427 hours of Supervised Visitation services. 304 victims received 6,202 hours of mobile and community-based services and supports.

Air Cleaners

Against Abuse, Inc. is requesting funding to purchase 17 air cleaners, one for each air conditioning unit that will reduce the airborne concentration of SARS-CoV-d and help mitigate the risk of transmission in our facilities where we meet with victims of domestic and/or sexual violence or provide services for them. AAI’s Pinal County-based facilities include:

- Casa Grande Crisis Shelter with 4 air conditioning units
- Maricopa Crisis Shelter with 5 air conditioning units
- Casa Grande Congregate Transitional Living Facility with 2 air conditioning units
- The Maricopa Mobile and Community Based Services Offices with 1 air conditioning unit
- The Casa Grande site for Supervised Visitation services with 1 air conditioning unit
- The Casa Grande site for Mobile and Community Based Services with 1 air conditioning unit
- The Casa Grande office where victims may come in to initiate services or obtain service vouchers and various deliveries are made in person on a daily basis – with 1 air conditioning unit.
- The Casa Grande Thrift Store with 2 air conditioning units – note: victims utilize the thrift store when they obtain clothing, furniture, or other necessary items (free of charge) as they establish their new normal, free from violence.

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By having air cleaners in our facilities, victims will be less likely to spread or even contract COVID-19 or other airborne pathogens, making the community a safer place, as victims and their children engage in their community to go to work, school, medical and behavioral health appointments, court appointments, shopping, church, and more.

Security System

Because AAI serves victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, perpetrators looking for their victims sometimes come to our 119 site trying to find them. In addition, perpetrators who are participating in Supervised Visitation of their children may have secondary intentions to interact with the victim, though court-ordered not to. When this occurs, perpetrators are often angry and potentially aggressive and/or assaultive. A security system will help identify and locate an angry perpetrator so staff monitoring the cameras can take proper precautionary actions and call 911 immediately to reduce possibly dangerous escalation.

By having a security system at our 119 site, the victims and staff on site receiving services as well as individuals in the surrounding community will be safer from the potential danger presented by an angry, aggressive, or otherwise dangerous perpetrator on site.

3. Other Funding Requests Made for This or Substantially Related Proposals

Although we have funding sources for other COVID-19 related expenses, we currently do not have a funding source to purchase air cleaners for our air conditioning units or the security system for our 119 site. We project these both to be one-time expenses. Air cleaning systems with the self-cleaning feature do not require routine replacement of filters and biannual replacement of light bulbs. The security camera system purchased will be specifically chosen so it will not require ongoing expenses for its use.

AAI has made a similar request for funding from the Ak-Chin Indian Community. The request was submitted to Pinal County for County Board of Supervisor’s Approval.

4. Previous 12% Distributions Awards from the Tohono O’odham Nation or other Arizona Tribes

AAI has not received previous awards from the Tohono O’odham Nation. Previous awards from other tribes are as follows:

- Gila River Indian Community: 2020: \$58,250; 2017: \$99,000; 2014: \$100,000; 2013: \$100,000; 2009-2011: \$250,000
- Ak-Chin: 2020: \$39,939.63

5. Designated contact person and alternate contact person.

Primary Contact Name: Maria-Elena Ochoa, Deputy Director

Email: maria-elenaocha@against-abuse.org

Alternate Contact Name: Mary Duarte, Associate Director

Email: maryduarte@against-abuse.org

Phone: 520.836.1239

Mailing Address: PO Box 10733, Casa Grande, AZ 85130

6. Indicate which priority area (from the above list) the proposal falls under.

The funding areas this proposal falls under includes: Health Care and Public Safety

7. Indicate the name of the city and agreement will be made with if the funds are granted:

If AAI receives an award, an agreement will be made with the City of Casa Grande.

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Additional information.

AAI has comprehensive Pandemic Protocols in place. They are routinely updated when the CDC provides new and/or additional information. In an abundance of caution and to protect staff and victims, protocols will remain in place and continue to evolve, even if, through this grant award, we are able to purchase air cleaners for our facilities.

8. Budget of the requested funds: \$24,542.70

AAI is requesting **\$24,542.70** to purchase air cleaners for air conditioning units as well as a camera security system for the 119 site.

Item	Projected Unit Cost	# of Units	Total Expense	Justification
Air Cleaner	\$ 1,123.00	17	\$ 19,091.00	Each air cleaner is projected to cost approximately \$1,123. AAI has 17 air conditioning units that need air cleaners.
Installation of each unit	\$ 100.00	17	\$ 1,700.00	The installation of each air cleaner is projected to cost approximately \$100 apiece. AAI will have 17 units installed.
		Subtotal	\$ 20,791.00	
Pinal County taxes		9.20%	\$ 1,912.77	According to Avalara, the combined 2021 sales tax (Arizona 5.6%, Pinal 1.6%, Casa Grande 2%) is 9.2% https://www.avalara.com/taxrates/en/sate-rates/arizona/cities/casa-grande.html
		Total	\$ 22,703.77	
Security System				
Security System (4 cameras)	\$ 984.00	1	\$ 984.00	8 channel NVR, 8 channel IP, 1 TB Hard Drive, 4 MP Fixed Lesn Dome Cameras, mid-range (65 ft. IR), Cable, Junction Boxes
Installation	\$ 700.00	1	\$ 700.00	Installation includes being careful to maintain the integrity of an historic building
		Subtotal	\$ 1,684.00	
Pinal County Taxes		9.20%	\$ 154.93	
		Total	\$ 1,838.93	
Total Requested Amount			\$ 24,542.70	



5/28/2021

Pat Griffen, Executive Director
Against Abuse, Inc.
119 N. Florence Street
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Dear Executive Director Griffen:

As Director of the Pinal County Public Health District, I am pleased to write this letter of support for Against Abuse, Inc.'s (AAI) proposal to obtain funding to optimize the health and safety of their facilities serving victims of domestic and sexual violence, and their children. Funds are being requested for two purchases: 1) air scrubbers and 2) a security camera system.

Air cleaning technologies have been determined to increase air flow and reduce the spread of airborne diseases such as COVID-19. Given the severity of illnesses such as COVID-19 (including potentially death), this equipment is an integral part of reducing spread of viruses in congregate setting such as shelters or work environments. The security system is for the Casa Grande offices, where Supervised Visitation and Community Based services are offered. The security system will improve the safety and protection of victims and their children from potentially aggressive non-custodial parents or perpetrators of those inquiring about or receiving services on site.

Domestic violence and sexual assault are critical concerns of public health, and Pinal County Public Health has enjoyed a long-standing collaborative partnership with AAI in serving our communities. AAI improves the safety and quality of life of victims of domestic and sexual violence by providing services in Pinal County such as: SANE accompaniment at Pinal County's Family Advocacy Centers, 24-hour hotline services, crisis intervention, crisis shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, mobile and community-based services, lay legal advocacy, information and referral, community outreach to underserved areas of Pinal County, support groups, and more.

On behalf of Pinal County Public Health, I strongly support AAI's application and sincerely hope they are awarded funding. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 520-705-4841.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tascha Spears". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tascha Spears, Ph.D., M.Sc., RN

Director

Pinal County Public Health Services District

Pat Griffen
Executive Director
Against Abuse, Inc.
119 N. Florence Street
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
520.836.1239
patgriffen@against-abuse.org

Dear Ms. Pat Griffen, Executive Director

As the President of Casa Grande Community & Hospital Foundation I am pleased to write this letter of support for Against Abuse, Inc.'s (AAI) proposal to obtain funding to purchase air scrubbers and a security system for their facilities to protect the health and safety of victims of domestic and sexual violence, and their children, in their services.

The Casa Grande Community & Hospital Foundation has enjoyed a long-standing collaborative partnership with AAI for more than 10 years. AAI improves the safety and quality of life of victims of domestic and sexual violence by providing services in Pinal County such as: SANE accompaniment at Pinal County's Family Advocacy Centers, 24-hour hotline services, crisis intervention, crisis shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, mobile and community-based services, lay legal advocacy, information and referral, community outreach to underserved areas of Pinal County, support groups, and more.

AAI is seeking funding to purchase air scrubbers for their facilities. By using air scrubbers, the health and safety of victims will be greatly enhanced as the air scrubbers effectively reduce exposure to airborne communicable diseases such as COVID-19. This is an important component in the post COVID environment where the people who need our help come on a moments notice with no knowledge of where they have been or the conditions they were exposed to.

In addition, AAI is seeking funding to purchase a security system for the Casa Grande offices, where Supervised Visitation and Community Based services are offered. By purchasing a security system, AAI can improve the safety and protection of victims and their children from potentially aggressive non-custodial parents or perpetrators of those inquiring about services or receiving services while they are on site.

On behalf of The Casa Grande Community & Hospital Foundation, I fully support AAI's application and sincerely hope they are awarded funding to make these very important purchases. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to continued collaboration and partnership with Against Abuse, Inc. for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Colleen Bechtel
President
The Casa Grande Community & Hospital Foundation
520-836-9301
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