

Tohono O'odham Nation
12% Gaming Distribution Grant Application
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor

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

This project will address the lack of affordable out-of-school time programs in Casa Grande.

For the past 40 years, the City of Casa Grande has served youth on the south side of town by providing limited programs at Len Colla Recreation Center. The City stopped offering these programs in March, 2020 due to the pandemic, and they recently asked our organization to permanently take over operations of this facility. Our organization agreed to this proposal immediately. We have remained open throughout the entire pandemic (we alternated between operating all-day learning labs and our normal after-school programs as our partner school districts alternated between virtual and in-person learning), but due to capacity limitations, we have had a waiting list for much of the past year. The pandemic has shown our organization that all of our resources need to be devoted to providing safe, fun, educational and affordable places for young people to go when they are not in school (our new agreement with the City is actually a “program trade”- moving forward, they will assume operations of our youth soccer league), and taking over this facility will allow our organization to serve more young people every day!

When school resumes in late-July, our organization will (1) begin a renovation project at the Len Colla Recreation Center and (2) open a temporary Club at Palo Verde Elementary School that will serve students from both Palo Verde and Mesquite Elementary Schools (students from these two schools will eventually attend our Len Colla Club, but we are opening this temporary Club so that there is no disruption of service during the renovation project). In addition to a gymnasium, Len Colla currently has two large open spaces and two offices. Our plan is to turn these areas into three large classrooms (an Art Room, a Computer Lab and a Games Room). This renovation will allow us to double the facility's service capacity- prior to the pandemic, the City served approximately 40 members each day after school, but after this project, we will be able to serve up to 150 members each day.

We are still finalizing project details with our contractor, but our expectation at this point is that the renovation project will be completed in December and we will be able to re-open the Len Colla Club in time for our Winter Break Program. Once this Club officially “re-opens”, it will become our seventh Club (we have one in Arizona City, one in Maricopa, and this will be our fifth Club in Casa Grande). And once we return to full capacity, we will be able to serve approximately 825 Club Members every day with our seven Clubs.

Our mission is to “inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens”. Once in one of our Clubs, our goal is to help all Club Members achieve our three priority outcomes- Academic Success, Good

Character & Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles. We certainly want to help our Club Members succeed in school, but by the time they get to our after-school programs, they just spent eight hours in school. With this in mind, we like offering activities that supplement or are different from the activities they participate in at school. As such, we prioritize things like physical activity, time on computers, life skill programs and art projects. The funds that we receive from this request will be used to help pay for the equipment and furniture that will go into the new Art Room (and a portion of the construction costs). Integrating art is so important for children's education because:

- It helps children develop creative problem-solving skills, motor skills, language skills, social skills and decision-making skills.
- It helps boost critical thinking skills.
- It helps students connect with their own and other cultures.

In recognition of this support, our organization will:

- Name the Art Room after the Tohono O'odham Nation (we will work with the tribe to come up with the specific name), and this name will be highlighted on a sign outside of the Art Room.
- Recognize the Tohono O'odham Nation on our Donor Wall (which will be displayed in the building lobby).
- Include a representative of the tribe in the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at the facility's Grand Re-Opening.

B. Describe the population who will benefit for the proposal if approved.

As mentioned previously, this Club will serve students from Mesquite and Palo Verde Elementary Schools (meaning that most of the members who attend this Club will be between the ages of 5 and 11). Most of the students who attend these schools come from low-income families (over 90% of the students at each school qualify for Free or Reduced Lunches). Our organization wants to ensure that our programs are available to every interested young person (our program fee is \$65/month during the school year and \$65/week during school breaks), so we offer financial assistance to any family who needs it (prior to the pandemic, 56% of our Club Members received a scholarship to attend one of our Clubs). But as mentioned previously, the City of Casa Grande has served young people who live near Len Colla (most of whom attend Palo Verde) for almost 40 years, and as part of our partnership agreement, we have committed to the following operational procedures:

- Palo Verde students will not have to pay to attend our program.
- To ensure that they are always given priority, Palo Verde students will be able to register for our programs one week earlier than will students from Mesquite.

We believe that these decisions will not only ensure that our program continues to be accessible to students who attended Len Colla prior to the pandemic, but they will also ensure that this program is accessible to many new members as well!

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

Expenses	Amount Requested from Tohono O’odham Nation	Amount Needed from Other Sources	Total Budget
Architect Fees	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Art Room Furniture	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Computer Lab Furniture	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Computers & IT Equipment	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Construction Costs	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
Games Room Furniture	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
Total Budget	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$200,000

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

<u>Funding Organization</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>	<u>Request Status</u>
Fiesta Bowl Charities	\$50,000	Pending
Lowe’s “100 Hometowns”	Unspecified*	Pending

*Their application did not ask for a “Requested Amount”, nor did it give any indication as to what the value of each grant would be.

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.

Our organization has never received a 12% distribution from the Tohono O’odham Nation. However, over the past five years, our organization has received four grants from other Arizona tribes.

<u>Tribe</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
Gila River Indian Community	\$25,000	June, 2019
Ak-Chin Indian Community	\$50,000	June, 2018
Ak-Chin Indian Community	\$25,000	June, 2017
Gila River Indian Community	\$25,000	June, 2017

F. Identify a designated contact person and alternate contact person for follow-up, including email, phone number, mailing address, and fax number for those persons.

Contact Person

Matthew Lemberg
Executive Director
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520-876-5437 (Phone)

Alternate Contact Person

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Casa Grande, Arizona 85130

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Note- Our organization no longer has a fax number.

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

This proposal (and this project) will address Education.

H. If the proposal is from a non-profit organization, include the name of the city, town, or county an agreement will be made with if funds are granted. A letter for the governmental entity acknowledging its agreement to work with the non-profit is not necessary for the initial proposal. However, it is necessary for those non-profits selected to receive grant funding.

When funded, the City of Casa Grande will accept these grant funds on our behalf.