

Tohono O’odham Nation
Office of the Chair and Vice Chairwoman
Tohono O’Odham Nation’s Request for Proposal for the ARS 5-601-02
12% Gaming Distribution

CGA Inc. Thrive Proposal

In Partnership with the Casa Grande Elementary School District and the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, CGA, Inc. (CGA) respectfully requests \$7,500 to pay for the purchase of 900 student workbooks and to pay an honorarium to a school assembly speaker, which will enable us to organize and deliver the Thrive Resilience Program for Teens to 900 eighth grade students at Villago, Cactus and Casa Grande Middle Schools during the 2021-2022 school year. Of those students that participate in the training, we expect that at least 60% will demonstrate an increase in social emotional learning competencies, an increase in knowledge of substance use and high-risk behaviors, and an increase in healthy decision-making and problem solving that will also increase self-esteem and confidence. Thrive will be delivered by a cadre of corporate and community volunteers that have been trained to deliver the curriculum.

Explain the perceived need and explain how the proposal will address that need:

Through data provided by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System and the DEA’s High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Taskforce has identified the Casa Grande area as one of two major hot spots in Arizona for drug trafficking activity and overdose deaths. In a recent community health needs assessment conducted by the Pinal County Public Health Department, 56% of the respondents reported that they themselves, a friend, or an immediate family member has experienced substance use disorder, which is defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) as the presence of:

- Health complications resulting from substance abuse
- Inability to carry out daily responsibilities
- Physical dependence
- Withdrawal symptoms if usage stops
- “Cravings” for drug or alcohol

In addition, the 2020 Pinal County Community Health Improvement Plan identifies Substance Misuse and Dependency as one of three primary health priorities for the county. Other sources suggest that:

- Youth are twice as likely to suffer from illicit drug use (National Center for Drug Abuse)
- Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness and substance use disorders begin by age 14 and three-fourths begins at age 24 (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
- Arizona is the 6th highest in the nation for prescription drug misuse and abuse (National Survey on Drug Use and Health)
- In Arizona alone 43,000 of 12–17-year-olds reported using drugs in the last month.
- In Casa Grande the Arizona Youth Survey states that the use of e-cigarettes amongst high schoolers is significantly higher than the state average at 20%, followed by Marijuana at 15%, hallucinogens at 5%, inhalants at 5%, and prescription drugs at 5%.

As a key component of a multi-pronged community prevention strategy, we intend to recruit and train community volunteers to facilitate the nine-lesson Thrive curriculum in all eighth-grade classrooms at the three public middle schools in Casa Grande. At the conclusion of Thrive at each school, we intend to engage the curriculum author Ted Huntington to provide “program graduation” assemblies at each site. Incidentally, Ted grew up and graduate high school in Casa Grande. Thrive is an evidence-supported and trauma-informed interactive course designed to empower teens with knowledge and tools to thrive today. Thrive addresses the challenges and underlying factors facing teens with a focus on the risk and protective factors that promote positive choices and healthy habits. The course has been designed to satisfy state Arizona Department of Education and National Health Teaching Standards. This curriculum gives students the tools they need to make positive choices. This is a relatively new prevention curriculum that is Arizona grown and has been endorsed by the Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona. Thrive was piloted in Chandler area schools with incredible results.

- Willis Jr High reported that there was a 66% reduction in substance related offenses and 40% reduction in tobacco/vape related offenses after course completion.
- According to the Wellington survey tool for Governor’s Office of Youth Faith and Family grants there was increase knowledge of risk/harm of youth substance use as demonstrated by pre/post surveys.

In March of 2021, we brought Thrive to the Casa Grande Elementary School District and presented the curriculum to the governing board. As a result, we were able to pilot the curriculum at two of the three middle schools, with very promising results. CGA will conduct pre and post assessments to track the impact of project implementation. We intend to reach about 900 eighth grade students and expect at least 60% will self-report an increase in social emotional learning competencies, knowledge of substance use and high-risk behaviors, and in healthy decision-making and problem-solving skills. In addition, we intend to recruit and train from 12 to 20 community volunteers to co-facilitate the program.

Describe the population who will benefit from the proposal if approved:

The population that will benefit from this project with about 900 eight graders that attend the public middle schools in Casa Grande. The three middle schools are Title I schools and qualify for 100% and Arizona School Report Card grades of C (Villago) and D (Cactus and CGMS). The eighth-grade student population is 64.6% Hispanic, 21% white, 5.2% Native Americans and 3.4% African American. According to information provided by CGESD, only 19% of 6th-8th graders received passing marks on the AzMerit Test in the spring of 2019, with over 55% falling far below in English and Language Arts and 11% receiving passing marks and over 70% falling far below in mathematics.

Include a budget of the requested funds, with the total amount requested clearly noted:

We propose a budget of \$7,500 for this project. Grant funds will pay for 900 student workbooks at a cost of \$6.00 per book (\$5,400); 30 facilitator manuals and \$10 per book (\$300) and speaker fees for Ted Huntington for \$1,800 (\$600 per site), for a total of \$7,500. We would welcome representatives from the Tohono O’odham Nation to participate in any of the classes and school assemblies. We will also seek donations from the community and other partners to host a completion celebration and provide treats.

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

The Casa Grande Alliance has not made any other funding requests for this project.

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:

The Casa Grande Alliance has been awarded funds in the past from the Gila River Indian Community for a total of \$36,464.54 and was awarded in 2017. Also, 2011, the Gila River Indian Community awarded \$6,088.

Identify a designated contact person and alternate contact person for follow-up, including e-mail address, phone number, mailing address, and fax number for these persons:

Contact 1: Margo Willis, Family Engagement Specialist VISTA

Email: Vista2.CGA@gmail.com

Phone: (520) 836-5022 Fax: (520)

Address: 280 McMurray Boulevard, Casa Grande Alliance, Arizona, 85122

Contact 2: Bob Shogren, Executive Director

Email: cgadirector@gmail.com

Phone: 520-836-5022

Address: 280 McMurray Boulevard, Casa Grande Alliance, Arizona, 85122

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

The proposal falls under the priority area of education.

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:

CGA is a 501-C3 non-profit and partnered with the City of Casa Grande for the submission of this proposal.