



Gila River Indian Community Grant Guidelines Grant Cycle 2026

THESE GUIDELINES HAVE CHANGED SO PLEASE READ IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND SPECIFICALLY:

- Target Population and Range of Grants Section – Application limits

Back Ground

The passage of Proposition 202 by the voters of Arizona in November 2002 set the stage for new gaming compacts between the State and the respective tribes. An important provision of Proposition 202 is the sharing of gaming revenues with the State, allowing a portion of the shared revenue to be retained and distributed by a tribe itself. Specifically, Proposition 202 states:

“The Tribe shall make twelve percent (12%) of its total annual contribution under Section 12(B) in either or both of the following forms:

- (1) Distributions to cities, towns, or counties for government services that benefit the general public, including public safety, mitigation of the impacts of gaming, or promotion of commerce and economic development;
- (2) Deposits to the Commerce and Economic Development Commission Local Communities Fund established by A.R.S. Section 41-1505.12.”

The Gila River Indian Community has opted for option one above and therefore distributes these “12 percent” funds directly to cities, towns, or counties through our State Shared Revenue Grants Program. Since 2003 the Gila River Indian Community has contributed over 95 million dollars to Arizona communities through this revenue sharing program alone.

Grants Overview

The Gila River Indian Community will fund Arizona municipalities in providing government services in the areas of economic development, education, healthcare, public safety and transportation. Realizing that all municipalities may not be able to internally meet the need for these services within their government structure, non-profit organizations are eligible to partner with a city, town or county to apply for a grant that meets the intent of this funding. It is the applicant’s responsibility to contact a municipality for instructions on their internal processes ***before*** applying.

The Gila River Indian Community’s policy is to generally focus distributions on nearby cities, towns, and counties (i.e., Maricopa and Pinal Counties, municipalities bordering or in close proximity to the Gila River Indian Community) but retains the flexibility to consider more distant locations in order to maximize the positive impact that Tribal gaming has on the State of Arizona.



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2026 Grants Timeline

January 1, 2026 – Grant Cycle Opens.

Applications will be accepted electronically at gric.grants.osf@gric.nsn.us between the dates of January 1 – March 31, 2026. A complete application includes the completed GRIC Application coversheet **signed by the designated representative of the municipality**, the narrative portion of the application, and a proposed budget with budget detail. Non-profit applicants must also include a copy of the organization's IRS determination letter. All components submitted in one PDF file is preferred. See the **Grant Application Instructions** below for important information and help in completing the grant application.

March 31, 2026 – Application Deadline.

Applications must be received in the grants inbox by 5:00 p.m. on this date. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered in this grant cycle. Applications received in the last week of the application window will be processed as is. For applications received prior to the last week of the application window we will make every attempt to notify applicants if an application is incomplete therefore submission prior to the final week is beneficial.

August 2026 – Applicants will be notified of the application standing. This will be notice that the application is moving to the award phase, or a notice of declination.

For applications selected to move on to the award phase, **a resolution** from the city, town, or county governing body **will be required**. The resolution will serve as the municipality's intent to accept any awarded funds and to use them in accordance with the application. A request for this document will be sent to the applicant and / or municipality. It is beneficial, but at the municipality's discretion, to submit this document at the time of initial application or anytime thereafter.

October 2026 –all grant awards will be made on or before October 25, 2026. Grantees will be notified via email followed by formal award documents via USPS. All grant awards are at the discretion of the Gila River Indian Community, a sovereign Tribal Nation; there is no appeals process for an application not being awarded.

Target Population and Range of Grants

Grant funds may be used to serve all demographics of the population provided they are within the stated priority funding areas and provide a service that benefits the general public within the State of Arizona.

Grants for programs and projects can range in total from \$1,000 to \$300,000 and can be paid in installments to support the program for at least one but no more than three years. Detailed and well justified budgets are essential. The Gila River Indian Community will determine the



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final amount and length of all grant awards; this may vary from the requested amount. First-time grantees are typically funded for only one year.

A limit of up to three applications per cycle will be accepted from **municipal** departments. Any applications received after the first three will not be considered.

A limit of one application per cycle will be accepted from **non-profit** organizations. Any applications received after the first one will not be considered.

The Gila River Indian Community will consider capital campaign requests of up to \$500,000 to be paid in installments for at least one but no more than five years, however the ultimate level of capital contribution will be at the discretion of the Gila River Indian Community based on interest in the project and available funding.

Acceptable applications for each of the priority funding areas may include, but are not limited to the following. These are only general examples of project types and should not be used in an application as justification.

- Economic Development – programs and projects that promote and assist with employment, job readiness, economic security, entrepreneurship, tourism, and commerce within individual cities, towns and counties and the State of Arizona.
- Education – programs and projects that assist students and/or educators in achieving success in the classroom from preschool through post-secondary education; programs and projects that provide tutoring and hands on learning, scholarship programs, museums, any other type of educational programs on any topic that enhances the general knowledge of participants or promotes life-long learning.
- Healthcare – health promotion, disease prevention, wellness activities, recreational activities that promote physical fitness, nutrition, mental health, behavioral health, drug, alcohol or tobacco use cessation, environmental health, direct patient care, health education, and other programs that may assist in improving the overall health of participants or local communities.
- Public Safety – programs and projects that enhance the efforts of police departments and fire departments, crime prevention programs, reduction of environmental hazards, environmental protection or quality, educational programs that address public and individual safety, homelessness, and homeless and transitional shelters.
- Transportation – projects that provide or improve transportation systems for the general public.



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In addition to these priority areas, the Gila River Indian Community reserves the right to utilize its discretion in soliciting special programs and projects not included in the above listing.

The Gila River Indian Community, Office of Special Funding may request additional information and/or a site visit from applicants during the review process. If a grant is approved, site visits may also be requested during the grant period to evaluate progress.

Who We Fund

The Gila River Indian Community will consider grant applications from Arizona cities, towns and counties. In addition, we will accept applications from non-municipal public service organizations (such as public schools, fire districts, etc.) that have partnered with a municipality for application submission, and from non-profit organizations that have tax-exempt status from the IRS and that have partnered with a municipality for application submission. These pass-through applications must provide services that benefit the general public in or around that municipality.

IMPORTANT - All grant awards are made and paid to Arizona cities, towns and counties. Non-municipal and non-profit organizations that wish to apply must establish a relationship with a city, town or county who will receive the grant and then distribute awarded funds as appropriate. This is in accordance with Proposition 202, distributions by tribe to cities, towns and counties.

Who/What We Do Not Fund

- State Agencies/Departments
- Organizations from outside the State of Arizona
- Other gaming tribes
- Individuals
- Sponsorships
- Religious Activities
- Indirect or Administrative Costs
- Projects for the sole benefit of the Gila River Indian Community

How to Apply

Application materials are available on our website at <http://www.gilariver.org>. Under the “Departments” menu, click on “Office of the Treasurer” and then scroll down and click on “Office of Special Funding.” Submit applications and all accompanying materials via email to gric.grants.osf@gric.nsn.us no later than 5:00 p.m. on the posted deadline date. Late applications will not be considered.



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IMPORTANT: If you do not receive an emailed confirmation of receipt of application within 24 hours after sending, contact us by phone at 520-562-9698, ext. 2508 or 2509. Please use the **Grant Application Instructions** below for help in completing the grant application.

All applications must be signed by the designated representative of the city, town or county. Applications that are not signed, or that are signed by an individual other than the authorized municipality representative will be considered incomplete and will be referred back to the municipality for further verification.

The GRIC Office of Special Funding will request a resolution from the applying city or town council or county board of supervisors for all applications considered for final approval. This resolution is accepted and preferred at the time of initial application. Applications moving forward to this phase are not guaranteed approval. The resolution will serve as the Municipality's intent to accept the grant as awarded and use for the purposes specified in the grant application. The Gila River Indian Community does not enter into Intergovernmental Agreements for purposes of these grants.

If you have questions regarding the guidelines or application process please contact Cheryl Pablo, Program Administrator or Terri Enos, Secretary III at the Gila River Indian Community Office of Special Funding – 520-562-9698, ext. 2508. cheryl.pablo@gric.nsn.us
terri.enos@gric.nsn.us



Grant Application Instructions

Please use these instructions as a guide to completing the Gila River Indian Community State Shared Revenue Grant Application. The application is in MS Word format and presented as a form fill document. If you have any questions about the grant application or guidelines please contact the Gila River Indian Community, Office of Special Funding at 520-562-9698, ext. 2508 or email to cheryl.pablo@gric.nsn.us or terri.enos@gric.nsn.us.

The 2026 Grant Cycle Application and all accompanying materials will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Please submit your application electronically in PDF format to gric.grants.osf@gric.nsn.us. Once your application is submitted you will receive a confirmation email.

***** If you do not receive an auto-reply or emailed confirmation of receipt within 24 hours contact the Gila River Indian Community Office of Special Funding on the next business day by phone at 520-562-9698, ext. 2508 or 2509.*****

The grant application should consist of the following documents compiled into one PDF file in this order:

- ☐ The completed grant application **Cover Sheet** signed by the designated Municipality representative
- ☐ The application **Narrative**
- ☐ The **Project Budget**
- ☐ The Project **Budget Detail**
- ☐ Non-profit applications include a copy of the organization's **IRS letter of determination**
- ☐ For current GRIC grantees an **optional 1-page summary on current grant progress**
- ☐ Any **other supporting documentation** such as quotes, letters of support, photos, etc.; however please keep these at a minimum.



Grant Application Instructions

Application instructions by section:

The application Cover Sheet, Narrative, Budget and Budget Detail can be form-filled electronically. Use the up and down arrow keys to move about the form fields or simply click on the field.

Cover Sheet

Municipality Information Section

1. Enter the date of the application.
2. Enter the name of the Arizona City, Town, or County that will receive the grant directly or on behalf of a non-municipal /non-profit organization.
3. Enter the name of the Mayor (City or Town) or Chairman of the Board of Supervisors (County).
4. Enter the official mailing address of the City, Town, or County as would be determined by an IRS form W9.
5. Enter the mailing address City. The State is defaulted to Arizona. Enter the mailing address Zip Code.
6. Enter the name and title of the person designated by the municipality to sign GRIC applications. This is a representative of the City, Town, or County and not of the applying Organization. Enter the email address of the person designated to sign GRIC applications.

*You, **the applicant**, will need to **obtain this information from the municipality** directly. This is required to ensure that the municipality is aware that a grant application is being submitted to the Gila River Indian Community from or through the specified municipality. If a municipality is not aware of the application submission the application will not be considered. All applications selected for award will require a Municipal Resolution which will serve as the municipality's intent to accept any awarded funds and to use them in accordance with the application. This may be submitted with the original application (preferred) or upon notification of pending award.*

Applicant Information Section

7. Enter the name of the applying Department (within the municipality government) or the name of the Non-Municipal/Non-profit Organization, whichever is applicable.
8. Select the organization type from the drop down menu. Municipality means a City, Town, or County or the governmental departments within. Non-Municipal Public Service Organizations may include Public Schools or School Districts, Fire Districts, etc. If 501c3



Grant Application Instructions

Non-profit is selected please attach a copy of the organization's IRS Determination Letter to the application following the budget detail page.

9. Enter the name of the application contact person. The person listed here will be our direct point of contact for grant-related questions or requests for information. All grant correspondence will be addressed to the contact person.
10. Enter the phone number of the person listed on line number nine.
11. Enter the official mailing address of the Department or Organization. This address will be used for grant correspondence sent via USPS.
12. Enter the mailing address City. The State is defaulted to Arizona. Enter the mailing address Zip Code.
13. Enter the email address of the person listed on line number nine. This address will be used for all grant correspondence sent via email. Enter the website address for the Department or Organization.

Project Information Section

14. Enter a Title of the project for which grant funds will be used.
15. Enter a brief description of what the grant funds will be used for. Please limit this description to one or two sentences. There will be an opportunity to go into detail in the narrative section.
16. Choose a Priority Funding Area from the drop down menu. Choose the area that best fits the project. If the project falls under more than one priority area there will be an opportunity to further define this in the narrative section.
17. Enter the annual funding amount that is requested for this proposal.
18. Enter the number of years that funding is requested. Please refer to the Gila River Indian Community Grant Guidelines, Target Population and Range of Grants section for more information.
19. Enter the total amount requested (annual amount multiplied by the number of years).
20. If the Department/Organization entered on Line Seven has received grant funds from the Gila River Indian Community State Shared Revenue Grant Program in the past, please list the year and amount of past grants.
21. Enter the geographic area that will be served by the proposed project.

Narrative

Each question of the Narrative section has a fill-in field that can be used to provide the information requested. Provide the narrative in paragraph form answering each question listed. **Please refrain from using uncommon or industry acronyms for best readability.**



Grant Application Instructions

Project Budget

Each line and column of the Project Budget page has a fill-in field. Click in the box to change the default \$0 to the requested dollar amount.

In **Column One** list the budget item(s) using as many lines as necessary. Not all projects will have 15 budget items.

In **Column Two** list the amount requested from the Gila River Indian Community for each budget item as it relates to the project narrative provided. Provide a column total. This total should equal the amount requested on the coversheet of the grant application. If this is a multi-year grant request and the budget amount for each year differs, provide a budget sheet for each year of the grant. If the budget amount is the same each year, indicate so in the Budget Period text box at the top of the page. The sum of this column for each year of the grant should total the annual amount requested on the coversheet of the grant application.

You may alternately create a similar table for multi-year requests adding a column for each year of the grant request and submit in lieu of this page.

In **Column Three** list the amount requested or secured from other funders for this project for each budget item. Columns three and four will help us determine the percentage and/or impact that the grant will contribute to the overall project.

In **Column Four** list any In-Kind contributions or matching funds for each budget item.

In **Column Five** list the total budget for each budget item across and then total this column at the bottom. The total of Columns 1 – 4 across (in the Total Budget line) and the total of Column Five should be the same.

Project Budget Detail

Provide a narrative description for each of the budget items listed on the Project Budget page. Include the dollar figure and how it was attained. Quotes that support large dollar items are extremely beneficial.