



Gila River Indian Community Grant Application Grant Cycle 2025

Cover Sheet

Click field or use up/down arrow keys to move among fields

Municipality Information	
1. Date of Application: Click here to enter a date.	
2. Name of City, Town or County: City of Peoria	
3. Mayor (City or Town) or Board of Supervisor's Chairman (County): Jason Beck	
4. Mailing Address: 8401 W. Monroe Street	
5. City: Peoria	State: Arizona
Zip Code: 85345	
6. Acknowledgement of Submission by Authorized Municipality Representative:	
Typed Name/Title: Henry Darwin/City Manager	Signature
Email Address: henry.darwin@peoriaaz.gov	
Applicant Information	
7. Department/Organization Name: United Arizona Veterans	
8. Select Organization Type: 501c3 Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> If Non-profit please attach IRS Determination Letter	
9. Application Contact Person: Travis Burns Title: Chair	
10. Phone Number: Click here to enter text.	
11. Mailing Address: Click here to enter text.	
12. City: Click here to enter text.	State: Arizona
Zip Code: Click here to enter text.	
13. Email Address: chair@azuav.org	Website Address: https://azuav.org/
Project Information	
14. Project Title: Unified Arizona Veterans: Veterans Scholarship Program	
15. Purpose of Grant: Offering Honorably Discharged U.S. Military Veterans, and their immediate families, who are Arizona residents, higher learning scholarships. These merit based scholarships focus on the contributions to community and service by the applicant.	
16. Priority Funding Area	Education
17. Annual amount requested	\$15,000
18. Number of years that funding is requested	2
19. Total amount requested (annual amount x number of years)	\$30,000
20. Has your organization received past funding from GRIC? If yes, list each year and amount	No
21. Geographic area served	Entire state of Arizona

For Office Use Only:

Data Entry	Receipt	Evaluation
<input type="checkbox"/> Approval – Amount/Term		<input type="checkbox"/> Denial



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Narrative

Please structure your proposal to provide the following information in the order indicated. Provide the narrative in paragraph form in the text field provided. Please be thorough but strive for brevity.

1. Briefly describe your organization's history, mission and goals.

Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV), Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit veteran organizations consisting of 50+ Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs). The UAV was founded in December 1981 by the Departments of Arizona — Disabled American Veterans (DAV), The American Legion (TAL), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

The mission of the UAV is to collectively promote veteran and veteran family-related affairs endorsed by a majority of its member organizations. The UAV actively proposes, supports, and endorses legislative, administrative, and other actions which further the general welfare and well-being of Arizona veterans and their families. The UAV provides a key conduit of veteran related information to all member organizations through meetings and internal communications. The UAV is dedicated to initiating and supporting activities which stimulate love of country and the American flag.

In support of its mission, the UAV has established, manages, and operates a scholarship program which assists veterans enrolled in higher education, including veterans who are determined by the VA to have a 100% service-connected disability un-remarried spouse and child of a fallen service member; and Native American students.

In further support of its mission, in 2001 the UAV established the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame (AVHOF) Program which recognizes Arizona veterans who, after honorable-discharge from military service, continue to serve the people of Arizona through exemplary community or public service, including supporting and advocating for Arizona veterans. The 23rd AVHOF Induction Ceremony was held on November 1, 2024 in Scottsdale, nineteen (19) Arizona veterans were inducted.

Prior to COVID-19, the UAV held its meetings on the first Saturday of the month (except July, August, and December) at the Phoenix VA Medical Center Basement Conference Center, 650 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix 85012. Today the meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month via Zoom.

During 44 years of advocacy and helping to draft and pass legislation, the people at UAV have worked to make positive change in the lives of Arizona veterans.

State income tax reduction for military retirements, increased eligibility of Reserve and National Guard members for education benefits, service-connected disability benefits, interment rights in state cemeteries are only a few initiatives UAV has championed since 1981.

UAV has garnered financial and community support for several projects in the Arizona State Capitol, and Wesley Bolin Plaza. The restoration and rededication of the WWI Memorial, plus continuing support for the Buffalo Soldier Monument, to name a few. For many years, UAV was also a key organization in the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.



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During and after the Phoenix VA Hospital wait time scandal of 2014, UAV stood firm in the commitment to improvement of not just the Phoenix VA, but national advocacy to improve the entire VA organization. UAV was a key organization that worked to remove the despicable, negative, anti-VA sign, which used to be on the huge billboard directly across 7th Street from the VAMC.

UAV supported the appointment of Executive Director Rima Nelson. To insure leadership stability and continuity after Director Nelson left the Phoenix VA, UAV championed the appointment of Dr. Alyshia Smith as Executive Director of the Phoenix VA. That foresight was proven by her outstanding leadership of Phoenix VA during the Covid pandemic. UAV has a key role in recognizing Arizona veterans who continued the "Service Above Self" traditions acquired during military service. Since 2001, UAV has administered the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Selection and Induction processes and events.

For additional information, visit the UAV website www.azuav.org.

2. To determine eligibility for this grant please select one item in the drop-down below.

Non-Profit

If Municipal, please go to number 3 below.

If Non-Municipal or Non-profit, please describe how the services provided by your organization align with a government service of the supporting municipality. Explain how this project will support that service and describe the municipality's role in the project if applicable (beyond serving as a pass-through).

The City of Peoria supports veterans in the community and desires to help them transition to civilian life by providing employment and higher education options. The United Arizona Veterans Scholarship Program will help veterans to further their education and transition to civilian life.

3. Describe the proposed project, objectives, and your plan to implement.

In support of its mission, the UAV established, manages, maintains and operates scholarship programs to assist deserving HONORABLY DISCHARGED veterans of the U.S. military, residing in Arizona, including honorably discharged veterans of the Arizona Reserve and Arizona National Guard components. Since 2016, we have expanded our program by adding two subprograms focusing on Native American veterans and immediate family members of 100% disabled and killed in action (KIA) veterans. We named the latter subprogram the Specialist Lori Ann Piestewa Scholarship in honor of the first Native American Female killed in action on foreign soil. The first two recipients of this scholarship were her two children, Brandon Whiterock (attending NAU) and Carla Piestewa (attending GCU).



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These scholarships, worth up to \$5,000, are issued to Arizona residents, who are either an:

- Honorably discharged U.S. Military Veteran. (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, Arizona National Guard/Reserve.) OR,
- Who are determined by the VA to have a 100% service-connected disability rating. OR,
- Immediate family member (example: un-remarried spouse, child, grandchild) of either an honorably discharged U.S. Military Veteran, or Killed in Action (KIA) or in an Act of Terror (AOT) military sponsor. (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, Arizona National Guard/Reserve military sponsor.)
- Applicants must be a lawful U.S. permanent resident, living in Arizona, pursuing and dedicating a deep commitment to their education beyond the high school level.

Since 2019, \$70K granted to 12 recipients:

DATES	AMOUNTS	RECIPIENTS
03/18/2019	4,000.00	Raymond Marinez
03/18/2019	3,000.00	Aimee Gregoire
03/18/2019	3,000.00	Pauline Gonzalez
05/21/2020	7,500.00	Carla Piestewa
05/21/2020	7,500.00	Brandon Whiterock
05/21/2020	1,000.00	Donte A. Day
05/21/2020	4,000.00	Armondo D. Escalante
06/01/2021	5,000.00	Charles N. Yellow Horse
06/01/2021	5,000.00	Oddisey C. Knox
04/21/2023	5,000.00	Cassandra Facciponti
04/21/2023	5,000.00	Anna E. Davis
04/21/2023	5,000.00	John M. Kubrock
04/19/2024	5,000.00	Jacob N. Dickson
4/19/2024	5,000.00	Leslie James Nelson Jr
4/19/2024	5,000.00	Antoinette Adkinson

4. Describe how the proposed project satisfies one or more of the priority funding areas identified by the Gila River Indian Community.

The UAV Scholarship Program fits the Gila River Indian Community funding priority for education – programs and projects that assist students and/or educators in achieving success in the classroom from preschool through post-



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secondary education. More than that it fits the priority for projects that promote and assist with employment, job readiness, and economic security. Since veterans and their families are often at risk for lack of employment, job readiness, and economic security, this program helps to alleviate those obstacles.

5. Identify the needs/problems to be addressed, the target population and number of people to be served by the project.

In support of its mission, the UAV operates scholarship programs to assist deserving HONORABLY DISCHARGED veterans of the U.S. military, residing in Arizona, including honorably discharged veterans of the Arizona Reserve and Arizona National Guard components. Since 2016, we have expanded our program by adding two subprograms focusing on Native American veterans and immediate family members of 100% disabled and killed in action (KIA) veterans. Applicants must be a lawful U.S. permanent resident, living in Arizona, pursuing and dedicating a deep commitment to their education beyond the high school level.

Three scholarship recipients are chosen each year and receive a \$5,000 scholarship to attend their choice of higher education institutions in Arizona.

6. Define the project as a new or continuing program. Has GRIC previously funded this project?

The UAV Scholarship Program is a continuing project since 2019 and has not previously received funding from the Gila River Indian Community.

7. Provide a brief timeline including start and finish dates. Indicate if the timeline is flexible.

This funding would be for the 2026 cycle of scholarships, with the dates remaining near the same deadlines of the 2025 scholarship application process.

CRITERIA: The scholarship applicant must:

1. All applicants for all UAV Scholarships must meet UAV Scholarship Arizona Residency Criteria. Applicants must submit proof of permanent residency in Arizona, e.g., AZ Driver's License, Voter Registration card, etc.
2. Complete and submit the 2025 UAV Scholarship Application form by the 23rd of February 2025, 2400 MST.
3. Must be participating in a program leading to a Baccalaureate or Post Graduate Degree, certification in the building or other skilled trades, and physically or virtually attending an institution of higher learning, physically located within the State of Arizona. The institution must be eligible to receive GI Bill funds through the Department of Veterans Affairs.



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4. Have a planned graduation or completion of education, at least 6 months after receiving a UAV scholarship. Planned graduation date must be submitted and confirmed.
5. If Requested By Scholarship Committee: Applicants must submit an income/expense disclosure form and/or Applicants Financial Needs Assessment form, that we will send, for further consideration.
6. Submit a letter of recommendation from one of your teachers, counselor, or volunteer coordinator from your current, or most recently graduated school, or program.
7. Submit a (up to) 500-word essay detailing how receiving this scholarship will help establish your future. Example topics: What is your career path and what are the steps you are taking to ensure success? What have you done to benefit your community, and how will your career path assist you in further benefiting your community? What obstacles have you had to traverse and how will your career path help your future? How will this scholarship directly impact your education?
8. Applicant will submit at least one of the following:
9. Separated military applicants must have received an "Honorable" discharge from service. Copies of your DD-214, NGB-22, or separation notice is required for verification.
10. If applicant is the un-remarried spouse, or immediate family member (example: dependent child, grandchild, etc.) of an honorably discharged U.S. Military Veteran, KIA or AOT service member, submit proof of relationship by a copy of your birth* (or marriage) certificate and documentation of service by the military sponsor.
*If there are special circumstances (stepchild, adoption, etc.), please contact us at: scholarships@azuav.org or communications@azuav.org
11. A current portrait style color photograph suitable for publication in an event program, social media, and on the UAV website, and newsletter.
12. Application form will consist of the signed (digital signature) application, copy of applicant's DD-214 or NGB-22 (documents will not be retained by the UAV, send only copies, do not send originals, do not expect them returned), applicant's personal essay, letter of recommendation, and proof of Arizona residency. If family member, proof of relation to the U.S. Military Veteran, KIA or AOT. All components of the documents must be easily legible. These documents must be sent via US Mail to the UAV at the following address:

- UAV Scholarship Committee

The UAV Scholarship Committee shall receive and evaluate UAV scholarship applications, and submit their selections to the UAV board. Applications will be evaluated and a decision will be made by March 25th, 2025 when applicants will be notified.



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8. Identify other organizations, partners or funders participating in the project and their roles.

Pless Foundation: \$30,000 in 2024

Sun City Elks: \$1,000 in 2024ick here to enter text.

9. Would you be able to implement the proposed plan if your organization received partial funding for this project?

United Arizona Veterans relies on donations from individuals and corporations to sustain its work. Its members also pay an annual fee to belong to the organization. UAV is committed to the current scholarship programs it sponsors and will continue to solicit funding to support its effort. A \$30,000 gift from Gila River Indian Community would provide 3 scholarships for veterans or veteran family members for two years.

10. Describe your plan for project financial sustainability beyond the grant period. If this is a program/project previously funded by the Gila River Indian Community, describe efforts made towards the previously described sustainability plan.

Now numbering over four dozen VSO's, UAV continues to actively propose, support and endorse legislation, administrative or other actions which further the general welfare and well-being of all Arizona military veterans.

The UAV is dedicated to initiating and supporting activities and objectives which stimulate love of country and the American flag. The UAV is committed to defend the honor and integrity of our Nation, the Constitution of the United States of America, and the American flag.

The UAV provides a key conduit of information to all member organizations through monthly meetings and our close working relationship with the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. Among our activities, the UAV manages and operates the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame (AVHOF) which it founded in 2001 to recognize the civic contributions of our Arizona veterans.

Because of its far reach across the state of Arizona, UAV will continue to expand its donor base and provide the funding needed to sustain its mission.

Now numbering over four dozen VSO's, UAV continues to actively propose, support and endorse legislation, administrative or other actions which further the general welfare and well-being of all Arizona military veterans.

11. Describe your plan to document progress and results.

United Arizona Veterans requires all recipients of a scholarship to show proof of enrollment and then completion of course work. It is our hope to celebrate with each scholarship recipient when they graduate from higher education.



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12. Indicate any application to and/or awards made by a tribe other than the Gila River Indian Community for state shared revenues for this and any other project for the past five (5) years.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community donated space at the Talking Stick Resort, valued at \$25,000, for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in 2024.



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Project Budget

Budget Period: [Click here to enter text.](#)

For each budget item listed, please provide a narrative description on the following Project Budget Detail page.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Proposed Budget Expense (list each budget item)	Amount requested from GRIC	Amount requested or secured from other sources	In Kind or matching contributions	Total Budget
1. Service and Support Scholarship	\$10000	\$0	\$0	\$30000
2. Native American Veteran Scholarship	\$10000	\$0	\$0	\$30000
3. Lori Piestewa Memorial Scholarship	\$10000	\$0	\$0	\$30000
4. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
6. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
10. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
13. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
14. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
15. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



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Project Budget Detail

Please provide a narrative description for each of the project budget items listed on the previous page. Include the dollar figure and how it was attained.

1. Service and Support Scholarship – For an honorably discharged U.S. Military Veteran (service) and/or an immediate family member (support) of a service member, residing anywhere in the state of Arizona.
2. Native American Veteran Scholarship – For an honorably discharged U.S. Military Native American Veteran, or an immediate family member of a U.S. Military Native American Veteran, residing anywhere within the state of Arizona, or on any reservation where any portion of which is situated wholly or partially, in the state of Arizona.
3. Lori Piestewa Memorial Scholarship – For an honorably discharged, U.S. Military Veteran, or immediate family member. (Including honorable discharged U.S. Military Veteran, KIA or AOT service member.) Applicant must reside in Arizona.
4. [Click here to enter text.](#)
5. [Click here to enter text.](#)
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14. [Click here to enter text.](#)
15. [Click here to enter text.](#)

Other explanation: [Click here to enter text.](#)



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To ensure a complete application and proper submission please refer to the Grant Application Instructions.