

A. Purpose of Grant

1. Project Description:

- This project urgently addresses high rates of absenteeism, academic failure, and juvenile justice involvement among high-risk students in Maricopa. Black and Native American students in Arizona face suspension and expulsion at nearly twice the rate of their peers, putting them at increased risk for disengagement and entry into the juvenile justice system. All at-risk youth in the area will be included and supported through our comprehensive academic and social-emotional programs.
- Our program intervenes early by pairing at-risk students (ages 7–17) with trained, fingerprinted and background checked mentors, providing targeted tutoring in core subjects, social-emotional workshops, and access to learning materials. We support students disengaged from school and those reentering from foster care, juvenile detention, or homelessness, helping them transition and succeed.
- The initiative also offers professional development for school staff and equips classrooms to foster inclusive, supportive environments. By focusing on direct student services and educator capacity-building, we aim to boost engagement, improve academic outcomes, and create a safe, motivating space for all students.
- No funds will be used for salaries or wages.

2. Identify Target Population:

The project supports high-risk, equity-deserving students aged 7–17 in Maricopa and Pinal Counties. It serves those struggling academically, facing social-emotional challenges, chronic absenteeism, or reentering from foster care, juvenile detention, or homelessness. The goal is to directly assist approximately 100 students during the program year.

3. Project Goals & Objectives:

Goal:

Our goal is to increase student engagement and academic achievement for at-risk youth through on-site mentoring, targeted tutoring, and professional development for school staff. Our main objective is to ensure at least 80% of participating students show improvement in attendance and core subject performance. We will measure our progress through pre- and post-program assessments, attendance records, and regular feedback from teachers, mentors, and families.

4. Timetable for implementation of Project

Activity	Start Date	End Date
Project Planning & Staff Training	8/01/2025	8/31/2025
Student Identification & Enrollment	8/15/2025	9/15/2025
Parent/Family Outreach & Orientation	8/15/2025	9/30/2025
Tutoring & Mentoring Sessions Begin	9/01/2025	6/01/2026

Activity	Start Date	End Date
Monthly Social-Emotional Learning Workshops	9/15/2025	6/15/2026
Ongoing Academic Progress Monitoring	9/15/2025	7/15/2026
Quarterly Parent Engagement Workshops	10/01/2025	7/01/2026
Professional Development for School Staff	9/15/2025	2/15/2026
Mid-Year Program Review & Adjustments	1/15/2026	1/31/2026
End-of-Year Student Assessment & Surveys	6/15/2026	7/01/2026
Final Evaluation & Reporting	7/01/2026	8/01/2026

B. Resources

1. Identify Current Funding Sources for the Project:

Individual Donations

Type: One-time-only and potentially long-term

Description: Annual or Semi-Annual Galas: Host signature Hope Key Foundation galas once or twice a year to celebrate impact and raise funds for at-risk youth programs.

Recurring Community Events: Hope key organizes regular events like charity walks, golf tournaments, or “Meet Local Authors” nights to engage the community and strengthen donor relationships.

Corporate Sponsorships

Type: One-time-only and potentially long-term

Description: Sponsorships from businesses are structured as annual commitments (e.g., Platinum, Gold, Silver Partner levels). Some sponsors may renew their support each year, making this a potential long-term source if partnerships are maintained.

Grants (applied for in 2025, not yet awarded)

2. Identify other organizations or partners that are participating in or contributing to the Project, but which are not funding sources, and describe their roles or contributions.

- George Gervin Prep Academy

Provides access to students in need of academic and social-emotional support.

Collaborates with Hope key Foundation to identify at-risk students, offers space for activities, and supports program logistics.

- The Word Church (Mesa, AZ)

Partners to deliver academic and mentoring programs, provides facilities for workshops, and helps recruit volunteers and connect with families.

- Roosevelt School District

Works with Hope key Foundation to identify eligible students, facilitate referrals, and integrate academic and social-emotional programming. Staff participate in professional development and support program implementation.

- Mesa School District

Assists in identifying and referring at-risk students and collaborates on student engagement and support strategies.

- Local Schools in Maricopa and Pinal Counties

Facilitate student referrals, support integration of programming, and participate in professional development.

- Community Volunteers and Student Coaches

Serve as mentors, tutors, and facilitators, undergoing background checks and training to ensure safety and quality.

3. Define the Project as a new or continuing project or a purchase. Provide information about how the Project will be sustained or the purchase will be maintained after the grant funding is exhausted.

The proposed initiative is a continuing project that builds upon the Hope key Foundation's ongoing academic and social-emotional support services for high-risk students in the Maricopa area. The project expands and enhances existing tutoring, mentoring, and reentry support programs to address persistent educational challenges and barriers faced by underserved youth.

Sustainability Plan:

To ensure the project's impact continues beyond the grant period, Hope key Foundation employs several strategies:

- We secure ongoing support through grants, donor cultivation, and annual fundraising events.
- We partner with local school districts, organizations, and volunteers to maximize resources and expertise.
- Trained, background checked, fingerprinted volunteer mentors and tutors help maintain program quality and expand reach cost-effectively.
- Professional development for staff and administrators strengthens long-term capacity to support at-risk students.
- Continuous program evaluation demonstrates impact and helps attract future funding.
- The Hope key Foundation is dedicated to sustaining and expanding its programs to provide lasting benefits for students and the community beyond the duration of grant funding.

4. If the Applicant organization has requested funding from any other Arizona tribe, please list:

The Hope key Foundation has not applied for funding from any other Arizona tribe.

C. Reports.

Describe how Project progress and results will be tracked and documented.

Reports and Accountability Plan:

- Financial Tracking: All spending is recorded, reconciled monthly, and overseen by a dedicated staff member to ensure funds are used as approved.
- Program Monitoring: We document student participation, tutoring sessions, and resource distribution with attendance logs and session records.
- Outcome Measurement: Student progress is assessed using pre/post assessments, feedback from teachers and mentors, and parent surveys.

- Reporting: Regular internal updates will summarize activities and outcomes. At the end of the grant, a comprehensive report will detail spending, activities, and measurable results.

This approach guarantees full accountability and transparent documentation of financial management and project impact, regardless of reporting requirements.

D. Budget. Provide a budget, including justification, that supports the request in the Application. Provide an estimated timeline for when funds will be expended.

Project Budget & Justification

Budget Item	Amount	Justification	Estimated Expenditure Timeline
Educational Supplies & Materials	\$16,000	Expanded purchase of books, workbooks, learning kits, technology, and classroom resources for a larger group of students.	August 2025 – June 2026 (ongoing)
Tutoring Program Resources	\$18,000	Additional curriculum licenses, online learning tools, and assessment materials to serve more students and offer personalized instruction.	August 2025 – May 2026 (ongoing)
Social-Emotional Workshop Costs	\$10,000	Increased frequency and scale of SEL workshops, including materials, guest facilitators, and activity kits.	September 2025 – June 2026 (monthly)
Student Transportation	\$12,000	More comprehensive transportation support (bus passes, van rentals, mileage reimbursement) to remove access barriers for all participants.	August 2025 – June 2026 (ongoing)
Parent & Family Engagement	\$6,000	Additional supplies, refreshments, and materials for more frequent or larger-scale parent workshops and family nights.	October 2025 – July 2026 (quarterly)
Professional Development	\$9,000	Enhanced training materials, facilitator fees, and resources for additional school staff professional development.	September 2025 – February 2026
Program Evaluation & Reporting	\$5,000	More robust data collection tools, surveys, and reporting to ensure rigorous tracking of outcomes and accountability.	January 2026 – August 2026
Safety & Background Checks	\$4,000	Fingerprinting and background checks for a larger pool of volunteer mentors and tutors, maintaining student safety.	August 2025 – November 2025

Budget Item	Amount	Justification	Estimated Expenditure Timeline
Enrichment & Extracurricular Activities	\$10,000	New line item to support educational field trips, arts, STEM activities, and cultural enrichment opportunities for students.	Throughout project year
Total	\$80,000		

Budget Justification Summary

- Educational Supplies: Provides essential learning tools for more students.
- Tutoring Resources: Expands individualized tutoring with advanced curriculum and digital tools.
- SEL Workshops: Increases frequency and impact of social-emotional learning programs.
- Student Transportation: Removes barriers so all students can participate.
- Family Engagement: Enhances support, training and involvement for families.
- Professional Development: Offers more training for educators and staff.
- Program Evaluation: Improves outcome tracking and reporting.
- Safety Checks: Ensures student safety as programs grow.
- Enrichment Activities: Provide opportunities for student growth, real-world learning, respect and foster cultural understanding, acceptance, and appreciation among students from diverse backgrounds.

Estimated Timeline for Fund Expenditure

Initial Purchases & Setup: August–September 2025
(supplies, background checks, initial training)

Ongoing Program Delivery: September 2025–June 2026
(tutoring, workshops, transportation, family engagement, enrichment)

Evaluation & Reporting: January–August 2026
(data collection, outcome measurement, final reporting)

E. Additional Information

What makes Hope key unique:

- We provide professional training for school staff and involve families and local partners to build lasting impact.
- Since our founding, we’ve served over 300 youth and are committed to transparency, measurable results, and expanding our reach.