



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: 5/16/2023

*= Mandatory, information must be provided

Click or tap the boxes to enter text. If not applicable, indicate "N/A".

***Title:**

Agenda Item – Discussion/Action on the Pima County Attorney’s Office request to utilize Anti-Racketeering Revolving Funds to fund Homicide Survivors Inc. (HSI)

***Introduction/Background:**

Funds are requested in the amount of \$5,000.00 to cover rent and materials for support group/workshop meeting space.

***Discussion:**

HSI currently operates remotely and from a small satellite office with no capacity for a large group. Last fiscal year, HSI partnered with a local community partner to cover expenses for a larger meeting space that is currently being used for those purposes only. In the upcoming fiscal year, their largest funding source will be limiting funding of programs at an estimated 45% of levels from previous fiscal years. Additional resources to address that impact and cover expenses such as rent for a meeting space, support group and workshop materials (workbooks, etc) and communication software to send mass text messages to Survivors and support group and workshop participants will need to be covered by alternative funding.

***Conclusion:**

The loss of a loved one due to homicide can be a complex path as Survivors find methods to reconstruct their lives. Homicide Survivors Inc (HSI) ensures that no one is alone when going through such a tragedy. Through crisis intervention and providing a safe space where Survivors do not feel isolated, a path to healing is created and Survivors are welcome to utilize services for as long as needed. Maintaining a large group meeting space and programming is essential to continuing to support the vulnerable members of our community.

***Recommendation:**

Approve the funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00

***Fiscal Impact:**

TOTAL IMPACT: \$3,600 (Meeting space rent); \$1,100 (Materials); \$300 (Communication software)

***Board of Supervisor District:**

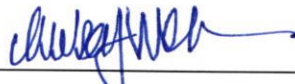
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Department: Pima County Attorney's Office

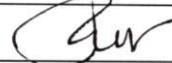
Telephone: 520-724-5700

Contact: Chief Civil Deputy Sam Brown

Telephone: 520-724-5700

Department Director Signature:  Date: 4/18/23

Deputy County Administrator Signature: _____ Date: _____

County Administrator Signature:  Date: 4/18/23



Pima County Attorney's Office

ARF Applicant Information Form

Once completed, please send this form and your ARF application to:
Patrick Robles, PCAO Community Outreach Coordinator, ARFRequest@pcao.pima.gov

Name of agency/organization Homicide Survivors, Inc.

Address
2315 E Speedway Blvd Tucson, AZ 85719

Mailing (if different) _____

Contact person Dennisse Ley Title Executive Director

Contact person Paula Lopez Title Victim Advocate

Phone (520) 207-5012 Email dennisse@azhomicidesurvivors.org

- Is your agency/organization a:
- Previous ARF applicant Yes No If yes, when? 2021
 - Previous ARF grantee Yes No If yes, when? _____
 - Current ARF grantee Yes No

**Community Organization Application
For Funding Assistance From Pima County Anti-Racketeering Funds (ARF)**

Community Organization	<u>Homicide Survivors, Inc</u>		
Executive Director/Agency Head	<u>Dennisse Ley</u>		
Law Enforcement Agency	<u>Pima County Attorney</u>		
Date	<u>03/10/2023</u>	Amount Requested	<u>\$5,000</u>

The Pima County Anti-Racketeering Revolving Fund has been created by forfeiture of property that constituted the proceeds of crime or that was used or intended to be used to commit crime. **Use of the funds is restricted to law enforcement purposes**, however transfers to community-based programs, whose missions are supportive of and consistent with a **law enforcement** effort, policy, or initiative are permitted.

NOTE: A program may benefit the community generally, but still not qualify for Pima County Anti-Racketeering Revolving Fund funds. To qualify, a program must specifically involve law enforcement personnel or otherwise include specific content which extends or enhances the efforts of law enforcement in the community, such as assisting victims of crime, preventing crime including by providing programs for at-risk youth, deterring crime, rehabilitation of offenders, emergency response by law enforcement, protecting people and property from crime, reducing the effects of crime, etc.

Describe the community-based program for which funds are being sought and how the program benefits the community:

Homicide Survivors, Inc. is a nonprofit victim assistance organization dedicated to meeting the crisis and long-term needs of families of murder victims. Through support, advocacy, and assistance, we help Survivors cope emotionally, stabilize economically and help Survivors seek justice for their loved ones. Homicide Survivors is committed to ensuring that no one has to endure the murder of a loved one alone.

HSI conducts its work through advocacy and case management. HSI provides emotional support through one-on-one sessions, support groups, alternative therapies, memorial events, legal advocacy, and emergency financial assistance.

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The impact of trauma isolates people from the community, and the services provided by HSI help Survivors heal and assist with bringing them back into the community. Often the community is impacted by the crime committed. There have been several instances where HSI has offered and hosted community vigils to support people affected by mass shootings and school shootings within Pima County. Additionally, HSI works with partners, the court system, law enforcement, and the community in holding criminals accountable so that further victimization does not occur again. The continuous efforts on behalf of each organization have had a significant impact on those who have lost a loved one to homicide. With HSI's positive impact on families, individuals consistently request to volunteer within the organization and help make this traumatic time less stressful.

HSI focuses on hope and healing within the organization. Having a strong and safe presence within the community helps with supporting a unique population and giving them the necessary resources to help guide them through their trauma. HSI works with several Survivors for an extended time. HSI understands this journey towards healing from losing a loved one will take extra time, hence why annual memorial and remembrance events are critical within their communities. HSI is focused on building impactful relationships with various organizations and continuing to have a presence within the community.

Specifically, what law enforcement effort, policy, and/or initiative of this agency does this program support in this community?

Homicide Survivors Inc. works directly with the law enforcement community from investigation through prosecution and post-adjudication to identify and offer support to Survivors. Advocates work cooperatively and collaboratively with detectives, prosecutors, legal staff, and victim advocates to help ensure that Survivors' crime victims' rights are protected and that they feel engaged and supported in the criminal justice process. The supportive programming offered at HSI supports and builds upon the work of the Pima County Attorney's Office, ensuring that Survivors receive the best support available to them despite the outcome of criminal cases.

Describe in detail how this program is supportive of and consistent with this law enforcement agency's efforts, policies, and/or initiatives in the community. What elements of the program specifically enhance or extend the efforts of law enforcement in the community, and how does the program do this?

Homicide Survivors, Inc. enhances and extends the efforts of the Pima County Attorney's Office. By becoming involved in Survivors' lives early on, HSI indirectly supports the efforts of the prosecution of a case. For example, in unsolved cases, advocates can connect Survivors to 88-Crime and assist families with the program's logistics. For cases where an arrest is made, advocates can act as a buffer between Survivors and law enforcement and/or prosecution, answering questions and providing consistent emotional support at times when Survivors need it most. For Survivors, their experience with the criminal justice system doesn't exist between 8am and 5pm, Monday through Friday. They live with and think about the homicide and the ensuing criminal justice process at every moment. Homicide Survivors advocates are able to provide that support in a way that no other organization can by offering weekly after-hours support groups, therapeutic programs, and various memorial events.

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The law enforcement agency's job is to investigate and successfully prosecute a case. The citizens of Pima County are fortunate to have very dedicated criminal justice professionals who are sensitive to the needs of the Survivors but sometimes their jobs simply don't allow them to focus entirely on the Survivor. The only job of advocates at HSI is to be supportive of that Survivor; to listen for as long as it takes to hear concerns, worries and fears. Having this extra support can take some of the burden from the law enforcement agency allowing the agents to keep a greater focus on their job at hand. The programming offered allows advocates to ensure that Survivors are prepared for the emotional roller coaster that is the criminal justice system and to come up with additional coping skills. Additionally, when Survivors feel heard and supported they are more likely to participate cooperatively with law enforcement at the various stages. Homicide Survivors advocates are also able to pick up where the criminal justice system leaves off. HSI can continue to have contact with and be supportive of Survivors for as many years as they are in need while they continue their healing. Both traditional and non-traditional support groups, workshops and equine therapy programs are perfect examples of this continued care that is available to Survivors.

As specifically as possible, please indicate how the funds requested will be used by this program (that is, to purchase supplies, equipment, and/or services; covering costs of participants or attendees; etc. Direct cash transfers or gifts are not permitted):

See Attached.

Please describe how your initiative will directly assist people from underserved communities and/or those who have been marginalized by a conviction history:

HSI has made tremendous strides to be more inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible for all. HSI provides support to a variety of demographics, with approximately 70% of our Survivors being people of color. Over 70% of the people we serve are in low-income households. The majority of the Survivors we serve reside in Pima County, including tribal lands such as the Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham reservations.

HSI works with great community partners such as Amity Foundation. This crucial collaboration and partnership enhance our programming by allowing HSI to provide more comprehensive and individualized services to Survivors who have been marginalized by trauma, poverty and have a conviction history.

Certification by Community Organization Applicant

Applicants for funds must certify in writing the following aspects of its background and compliance with Arizona and federal law and Department of Justice guidelines:

I, the undersigned head of the applicant entity, certify that:

	Yes	No
A. Applicant is a state, county, or local government department or agency; or applicant is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) or (4) organization. Tax I.D. Number: <u>86-0889964</u>	✓	—
B. Applicant is primarily engaged in providing a program that is both community-based and supportive of and consistent with a law enforcement effort, policy, or initiative.	✓	
C. Applicant agrees to account separately for all anti-racketeering funds received.	✓	—
D. Applicant agrees to utilize and apply standard accounting requirements and practices employed under state or local law for recipients of federal, state, or local funds and to provide documentation for any audit that may be performed by a governmental entity authorized to audit the use of such funds.	✓	—
E. Applicant is in compliance with federal civil rights laws.	✓	
F. Applicant is in compliance with all other Arizona and federal laws that apply to applicant.	✓	
G. No officer, director, trustee, or fiduciary of the applicant has been convicted of a felony offense under federal or state law, or convicted of any drug offense.	✓	—
H. Applicant agrees not to use funds for personal or political purposes.	✓	
I. Applicant agrees that funds will not be used for any purpose that would constitute an improper or illegal use under the laws, rules, regulations, or orders of the state or local jurisdiction in which the applicant is located.	✓	

Dennisse Ley

Print Name of Requesting Agency
Director



Signature of Requesting Agency
Director

I have reviewed the foregoing request, and based on the organization's certifications and the information provided by the organization, the recipient of the funds is a qualified entity and the program for which funds are sought is consistent with and supportive of a

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law enforcement effort, policy, and/or initiative of this agency. (If the funding is to be from DOJ equitable sharing sources, all additional requirements for use of such funds have also been fulfilled; Treasury funds may not be used for support of community-based programs.)

Laura Conover
Print Name of Chief Law
Enforcement Officer


Signature of Chief Law Enforcement
Officer

Date April 18, 2023