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Federal ID# 74-2378900

January 14, 2016

County Supervisor Tommie Martin  
Gila County Economic Development  
610 E HWY 260  
Payson, AZ 85541

RE: Request for Funding

Dear Tommie,

The Payson Senior Center, Inc. ("PSC") is respectfully requesting the opportunity to apply for funding in the amount of \$30,000 to support our Meals on Wheels program.

**BACKGROUND and MISSION:** PSC is a mature non-profit of 31 years. Our mission is to assist individuals aged 50 and older in Payson and surrounding areas in achieving and maintaining self-sufficiency with dignity and to offer choices of appropriate care by providing a wide range of community and home-based services offered with the seniors' needs being held in confidence. We offer a range of services designed to enhance the health, well being, and quality of life of seniors, responding to the unique needs of this rural retirement community. Those needs include transportation, education, social opportunities, and direct food service for the seniors and the homebound. The median age in our community is 49.5 and approximately 54% of the adult population is 55 and older. Statistics state that about **19% of seniors are at risk for hunger, malnutrition and isolation**. This risk increases in rural communities with limited human services. **PSC is the only provider of meals on wheels** for seniors and disabled in our community. Last year we provided 32,049 nutritious meals through **the meals on wheels program** programs. All program services provided are **donation-based** to our seniors and disabled.

**MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE AREA:** PSC delivers meals on wheels south to Tonto Basin and the areas in between (OxBow, Rye, Deer Creek, Gisela), east to the very eastern outskirts of Star Valley and north to Mesa Del. For those people who live further out, we encourage a family member or neighbor to come and pick up meals for them. We try to reach as many people as we can in northern Gila County. We also serve lunch at the Senior Center. This lunch is donation only and we have people from all over northern Gila County come including Pine, Strawberry, Young, Christopher Creek, Bear Flats, etc.

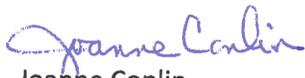
**THE PROBLEM:** Our current program budget for meals on wheels is \$260,000 with only 42% of funding from government agencies. At this point, we are at our maximum program budget capacity with a waiting list for meals on wheels. The need for our services continues to grow. We cannot ignore the

growing needs of at-risk seniors and the Baby Boomers are aging. **HUNGER, MALNOURISHMENT** and **ISOLATION** are very real socio-economic problems. Incomes and benefits are diminishing and people fill their hunger pains with "dessert meals". Studies confirm food programs are vital to this vulnerable section of our population.

We, at PSC, are committed to our seniors to help them live a decent life until they pass on. It is vital that there are continued services in our community to stop our seniors from going hungry or malnourished and to give them the socialization and independence without it costing money they do not have. .

Thank you for your consideration of our \$30,000 request to aid fund this vital program. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Joanne Conlin, Director at 928-474-4876 or [pseniorctr@gmail.com](mailto:pseniorctr@gmail.com)

Sincere regards,



Joanne Conlin  
Director