



City of Apache Junction
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Request for Financial Assistance



Application Cover Sheet

Name of Agency: Begin Again Homes, Inc.

Mailing Address: PO Box 23, Apache Junction, AZ 85117

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Phone: (480) 492-5309

Agency Director: Maggie Berizzi

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Project Manager: Sheryl Bigelow

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Direct Line: (480) 492-5309

Project: **Temporary Emergency Shelter and Eviction Prevention**

Total Amount Requested: \$80,000.00

Population and number of people to be served: (1) Seniors, families, disabled adults and veterans who are homeless. (2) Housed seniors and families facing eviction due to unforeseen medical and/or car repairs. The number of people to be served will depend on the crisis and the need.

Agency Description:

Please provide a brief description of your organization's history, experience, and services provided.

HISTORY: Begin Again Homes, Inc. (BAH) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization Apache Junction, Arizona. BAH is a community housing service, emergency and other relief services organization as well as providing referrals and resources to the community of Apache Junction.

When no immediate shelter is available through BAH or other housing resources, BAH will pay for hotel stays for interims not to exceed one month, provided that certain criteria are met by the client.

Housing affordability and the means to maintain housing has shifted in the last two years, affecting the residents of our community. The Arizona Department of Economic Services ended its Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) on October 13, 2023, followed by ending the Rental Assistance Program (ARAP) September 1, 2024. Thus leaving seniors and families facing evictions with nowhere to turn for assistance. **(Attachment A)**. There is only one agency in ALL of Pinal County that can assist with STCS (Short-Term Crisis Services), which is CAHRA (Community Action Human Resource Agency). This service addresses the needs of families with dependents. This excludes seniors, veterans and disabled adults. **(Attachment B)**.

EXPERIENCE: The Executive Director applies her seven years of knowledge of being boots on the grounds with the homeless, her past employment with The Salvation Army, current position as the services navigator at Genesis Project, membership with the Apache Junction Homeless Coalition and Pinal County Coalition To End Homelessness, in being able to supply appropriate referrals and resources. With this background BAH has established relationships with the homeless community and vulnerable seniors of Apache Junction, enabling us to properly identify their crisis and their needs and the appropriate agencies to refer them to if it is something we cannot help with.

BAH operated such emergency shelter throughout June-December 2024. During this time period, we resourced 124 people, provided a total of five (5) emergency shelter stays, and assisted in obtaining permanent housing for these five (5) individuals. The use of Motel 6 as the temporary emergency shelter was made possible through various donations from local businesses and community members.

BAH also provided eviction prevention to a 67-year-old gentleman, keeping him in his home of 10 years.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- a. Temporary Emergency Shelter: Clients will stay at Motel 6 while they wait for the final home inspections.
- b. Case management: Clients will receive individualized case management to help them secure and maintain permanent housing, manage finances, seek employment, and access health and mental health services in order to improve their financial stability, and achieve self-sufficiency.
- c. Eviction Prevention: BAH will aid clients in keeping housing by paying past due rent thus preventing eviction.
- d. Referral services for added resources, including healthcare, employment training, and benefits access such as Food Stamps.
- e. Maintaining licensing for HMIS (Housing Management Information System) to continue being the coordinated entry point in Apache Junction.

Please address the following:

1. Has your agency received funding from Apache Junction in the past? If yes:
 - a. What was the year: 2024-2025.
 - b. Amount: \$3,375.00.
 - c. Project/Service: Emergency Shelter, Marketing, Operations, Licenses.
 - d. How your agency met the expectations of the funding agreement.

BAH has successfully met the expectations of the funding agreement in all aspects. By preventing an eviction for a senior, paying his past due rent and covering three months of future rent, BAH directly impacted the individual's housing stability. Additionally, BAH ensured compliance with the marketing utilizing funds for fundraising and advertising, and operational requirements of the funding agreement were met including keeping necessary licenses up-to-date.

2. Purpose of the agency: Begin Again Homes mission is to bridge the gap for individuals, seniors, veterans, families and at-risk tenants by offering temporary shelter, housing aid, and case management services. The primary goals are twofold (a) To ensure individuals and families can transition from homelessness to permanent housing instilling stability and improving their quality of life. (b) Preventing evictions and homelessness with rental assistance to keep families, seniors, veterans and disabled adults in their homes.
3. Type of agency: 501(c) nonprofit organization.
4. Services provided:
 - a. Temporary Emergency Shelter: Clients will stay at Motel 6 while they wait for the final inspections on housing.
 - b. Case management: Clients will receive individualized case management to help them secure permanent housing, manage finances, seek employment, and access health and mental health services in order to improve their financial stability, and achieve self-sufficiency.

- c. Eviction Prevention: BAH will aid clients in keeping housing by paying past due rent thus preventing eviction.
 - d. Referral services for added resources, including healthcare, employment training, and benefits access such as Food Stamps.
 - e. Maintaining licensing for HMIS (Housing Management Information System) to continue being the coordinated entry point in Apache Junction.
5. Provide target population and demographic information on your current clientele to include percentage located within the City of Apache Junction
- a. The target population that this Project will serve and benefit are Apache Junction seniors, families, disabled adults, and veterans who are homeless and/or at risk of eviction.
 - b. The percentage located within the City of Apache Junction is 100%.

6. Explain how your agency will have adequate capacity to complete the project/service being requested.

BAH plans to sustain this project after the grant period by:

- a. Fundraising efforts: Organizing our annual Bunco Fundraiser, with future Paint and Sip at the Cat Wagon, Music and Smores at Flat Iron Park and Pickleball tournaments, to name a few.
 - b. Grants: Applying for local, state and federal-level grants to support housing, homelessness programs, and eviction prevention in Apache Junction.
 - c. Community Partnerships: Strengthening relationships with local businesses, service providers and government agencies to continue providing necessary resources for individuals in need.
7. Provide a list of your annual fundraisers and average amount raised:
- a. July 2024: Cat Wagon raised \$43.20
 - b. August 2024: Alan Belmonte Social Media Fundraiser: \$2,800.00.
 - c. January 2025: First Annual Bunco Fundraiser 1/11/2025 raised \$2,815.00.
8. Are you listed on the www.211Arizona.org website? No. We are in the process of having our application reviewed. We are listed on the Pinal County End Homelessness Coalition website. (pcceh.com/resources-2/) (under housing services). We are also listed on the Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care as a Coordinated Entry point for HMIS (pcceh.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/CE-Procedure-2024-1-pdf) (page 4).
9. Have you participated in the following: a Project Connect event, a Health and Wellness Expo or the Apache Junction Community Resource Center in the past?
- Yes BAH participated in Project Connect October 2024 and are participating in

the Health and Wellness Expo in February 2025 at MGC. BAH utilizes the AJ Community Resource Center three times a week being available to enter clients into HMIS, provide resources and referrals.

Project/Service Description:

Please describe the proposed project/service to be funded. Please address the following:

1. Who will be served?

The target population includes residents of Apache Junction who are homeless and in need of Temporary Emergency Shelter, as well as housed seniors, veterans, disabled adults and families at risk of eviction due to unexpected medical bills and/or car repairs.

2. How will this project serve Apache Junction proper residents?

- a. Temporary Emergency Shelter will serve AJ residents by meeting basic needs, providing support, reducing crime and improving public health.
- b. Eviction Prevention will keep vulnerable seniors, veterans, disabled adults and families housed, preventing homelessness.

3. What services will be provided?

- a. Temporary Emergency Shelter: Clients will stay at Motel 6 while they wait for the final home inspections.
- b. Case management: Clients will receive individualized case management to help them secure permanent housing, manage finances, seek employment, and access health and mental health services in order to improve their financial stability, and achieve self-sufficiency.
- c. Eviction Prevention: BAH will aid clients in staying housed by paying past due rent, thus preventing eviction.
- d. Referral services for added resources, including healthcare, employment training, and benefits access.
- e. Maintaining licensing for HMIS (Housing Management Information System) to continue being the coordinated entry point in Apache Junction.

4. What are the benefits?

The benefits of the services are reducing homelessness, increasing permanent housing placements, and reducing evictions. By providing temporary shelter, homeless individuals and families will secure a safe space to focus on their housing plan, job training, gain access to supportive services and be provided necessary referrals and resources. Eviction prevention will help vulnerable seniors, veterans, disabled adults, and families remain housed.

5. Provide a timeline and who is responsible

- a. Start Date: July 2025
- b. End Date: Ongoing

Responsible Parties:

- A. Executive Director: Oversees the project and ensures all aspects are implemented according to plan.
- B. Case Managers: Provide direct services to clients, including shelter coordination and referrals for added support.
- C. BAH Staff: General staff aiding with client intake, administrative support, and coordination of community resources.

6. Where will the services be provided? (a) Temporary Emergency Shelter services will be provided through a partnership with Motel 6 in Apache Junction for homeless individuals and families awaiting final home inspections on their permanent housing. (b) Eviction prevention will be provided by assisting with the client's crisis and verifying they can maintain stability if we pay their past due rent.
7. How will you provide the services? The services will be provided through referrals from HMIS, CAHRA, A New Leaf, NCHP, Horizon Health outreach with supportive services from The Salvation Army, Genesis Project, and Purple Heart Desert Thrift Store.
8. Are there any community partners in this project? If so, please list. Genesis Project, Horizon Health Outreach, The Salvation Army, A New Leaf, CAHRA, NCHP, Purple Heart Desert Thrift Store.
9. What is the project/service and agency goals?

The project/services are to provide Temporary Emergency Shelter, eviction prevention, and case management. The agency goals are to reduce homelessness, increase permanent housing placements, aid clients in being housed, and keeping seniors, veterans, disabled adults and families facing eviction housed.

10. How and will you sustain this project after the agreement has ended?
 - a. Fundraising efforts: Organizing annual and semiannual fundraisers, such as the Cat Wagon, Bunco Fundraiser events, and introducing new events.
 - b. Grants: Applying for local, state and federal-level grants to support housing, homelessness programs, and eviction prevention.
 - c. Community Partnerships: Strengthening relationships with local businesses, service providers and government agencies to continue providing necessary resources for individuals in need.

Project/Service Budget:

Provide a detailed project budget and narrative based on activities indicated above including:

1. Amount being requested: \$80,000.00.
2. Amount of funding provided by your agency (include source): There is \$0 in monetary contributions for this specific project. However, BAH will contribute through in-kind services, such as staff time, office resources, and management.
3. Amount of funding provided by partners (include source): \$0 from partners in terms of direct monetary contributions. However, BAH collaborates with local partners like Genesis Project, Horizon Health Outreach, CAHRA, and others to provide referrals and added support services.
4. A detailed narrative of the costs:
 - Hotel Stays (Temporary Shelter): Motel 6 accommodations for emergency shelter, including taxes, fees, and room rates. Estimated cost: \$35,000.00.
 - Case Management Services: Salaries and stipends for case managers involved in providing support services to clients. Estimated cost: \$10,000.00.
 - Eviction Prevention: Costs associated to assisting individuals with rental assistance in order to maintain housing and prevent homelessness. Estimated cost: \$35,000.00.
5. What percentage of your agency's total annual budget is this funding request? 90%.
6. Indicate if you would accept partial funding and if so, provide the minimum amount and how your project will change.

Acceptance of Partial Funding

- The minimum amount Begin Again Homes (BAH) will accept is \$50,000.00.

Impact of Partial Funding

- Receiving partial funding will limit the number of people we can serve.
- Reduced capacity to provide temporary emergency shelter and eviction prevention services.
- Potential delays in service delivery and support for those in need.

CONCLUSION: This funding will allow Begin Again Homes, Inc. to provide essential services to vulnerable populations in Apache Junction, including homeless individuals and families at risk of eviction. Through temporary shelter and supportive services, BAH will help stabilize these individuals and families, giving them the resources needed to achieve and maintain permanent housing. This project will not only address immediate housing needs but will also strengthen the community by reducing homelessness, improving public health, and increasing self-sufficiency.