



**WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE**  
A Sovereign Tribal Nation

**(Authorizing the Tribe's Vocational Rehabilitation Program to Apply for a U.S. Department of Education Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Services Project for American Indians with Disabilities Grant up to the Amount of \$3.5 Million Dollars)**

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**WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(j) that the Tribal Council ("Council") shall exercise the power, "To accept grants and donations from any person, state, or the United States"; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribe has urged and hereby affirms that all Tribal programs should make an effort to hire people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2019, the Tribe's Education Department's Vocational Rehabilitation Program was awarded a grant to assist the Tribe in employing tribal members or members from other federally-recognized Tribes with disabilities that are residing on or near the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and

**WHEREAS,** With that grant, the Tribe's Vocational Rehabilitation Program staff served 450 eligible consumers with disabilities and has had successful outcomes with 225 consumers obtaining gainful employment with the Tribe, or self-employment and entrepreneurship, and in the public and private sectors; and

**WHEREAS,** The Vocational Rehabilitation Program expects to continue to serve eligible consumers and plans to compete for the 2024 U.S. Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation Services Project for American Indians with Disabilities Grant, which if awarded, will provide up to three and a half million dollars (\$3,500,000.00) in funds that can be used to operate the Vocational Rehabilitation Program for an additional five (5) years, with a tribal match of ten (10) percent; and

**WHEREAS,** The Council has reviewed the Vocational Rehabilitation Program's proposal and finds that applying for this grant will help the Program continue to serve individuals with disabilities in our community, and is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby authorizes the Tribe's Vocational Rehabilitation Program to apply for the 2024 U.S. Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation Services Project for American Indians with Disabilities Grant, and,

***Resolution No. 12-2023-271***

if awarded, approves continuation of the Tribe's Vocational Rehabilitation Program and its admirable objectives.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program is instructed to make a timely and complete application submission to the U.S. Department of Education.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that, if awarded, the Tribe's Education Department shall work with the Finance Department to establish an account for deposits and expenditures of the grant funds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **DECEMBER 11, 2023** duly adopted by a vote of **SEVEN** for, **ZERO** against, and **TWO** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1, of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on November 10, 2021, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

Kasey Velasquez 12.12.2023  
Kasey Velasquez, Tribal Chairman Date

Vaneysa Johnson 12/13/2023  
Vaneysa Johnson, Tribal Secretary Date