



City Council Report

Date: March 4, 2024
To: City Council
Through: Scott J. Butler, Assistant City Manager
From: Sharon Skinner, Grants Coordinator
Subject: Resolution of support of a grant award from Tohono O’odham Nation to Maricopa County Community Colleges Foundation in the amount of \$25,000.00 for their Student Emergency Program and “Heroes of Education” and approving the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-thru grant.

Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support of an award to Maricopa County Community Colleges Foundation from Tohono O’odham Nation Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$25,000.00 in funding for their Student Emergency program and “Heroes of Education.” A Council Resolution supports this grant award and commits the city to receive it on behalf of the non-profit and pass it through in its entirety. As these programs serve the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

Background

MCCCD is a 10-college district serving a predominantly low-income, culturally diverse population of over 140,000 students. Mesa Community College Mesa campus is located in the City of Mesa with a total enrollment of 16,948.

Approximately 1,500 disadvantaged students, experiencing a sudden financial hardship, will benefit from this partnership, removing an unforeseen obstacle that would otherwise cause them to give up and drop out. The Student Emergency Fund is designed to improve student resiliency and persistence, keeping them on the path toward breaking the cycle of generational poverty, and opening the doors of opportunity that come with completing a higher education credential.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for the organization to file their application by the funder’s deadline and be considered for funding. Mesa’s participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned

over \$1 billion to Arizona communities since its passage in 2002 from four surrounding tribal governments.

Alternatives

The only alternative to adopting this resolution would be to not adopt. Such an action would deny Mesa sponsorship for this request and require the organization to seek an alternate local government for access to this funding source.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact on the City of Mesa, should this grant be awarded, will be negligible except overhead expenses in accounting to accept and reissue the grant check. The City does not administer the grant and signs an MOU or IGA with each tribe to limit our liability to only the pass-through transaction.