



City Council Report

Date: April 15, 2019
To: City Council
Through: Christopher J. Brady, City Manager
From: Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager, Government Relations
Subject: Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Helen's Hope Chest to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in the amount of \$20,000 to provide services for children and teens in foster and kinship care and approving the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-through grant.

Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Helen's Hope Chest's application to Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$20,000 in funding to provide services for children and teens in foster and kinship care. A Council Resolution supports this effort to secure a grant and commits the city to receive it on behalf of the non-profit and pass it through in its entirety to them if awarded.

As this program serves the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

Background

Helen's Hope Chest provides hope to children and teens in foster and kinship care by meeting their basic needs through our special boutique. Children and teens are able to "shop" for free four times per year. On their first visit they pick a special quilt handmade by community members. During each visit they choose five outfits, underwear, shoes, hygiene items, and books they also pick a new gift for their birthdays, Christmas, and other special days.

Helen's Hope Chest began as a project of Mesa United Way after the economic crash in 2008. A small clothing closet was opened in a borrowed Mesa church room in 2009 that provided 1,400 units of service to foster and kinship families. Since then, HHC has grown into an 8,000 square foot building that provided over 12,000 units of service with a value of nearly \$2,000,000 in FY 2018. Over 33% of the youth served at HHC reside in Mesa.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Helen's Hope Chest to file their application by May 1, 2019 and be considered for funding from Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. 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 Helen's Hope Chest 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 for Helen's Hope Chest, 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.