



City Council Report

Date: May 20, 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 A.T. Still University (ATSU) Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH) to the Tohono O'odham Nation in the amount of \$5,400 for their Smile Forward program 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 A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH) application to Tohono O'odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$5,400 in funding for their Smile Forward program. 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

ASDOH was established to fill access gaps in dental care for Arizona's underserved communities and remains dedicated to graduating dentists who become caring community leaders, serving those in need. ASDOH launched Smile Forward—supported by grants and donations—to aid children and adults, including those with disabilities. Dental students training at ASDOH's clinics turn to Smile Forward when new patients cite prohibitive cost as a reason they may be forced to refuse services prescribed in their individualized treatment plan.

ASDOH's request of \$5,400 will address a significant waiting list of adult patients at the Mesa clinic who have applied for Smile Forward assistance to off-set costs of much-needed cleanings, extractions, restorations (fillings), denture services, and more. Maintaining good oral health is critical to whole person wellness. At least 5 adult patients at ASDOH's Mesa clinics will receive essential oral health care services. For

example, awarding up to \$1,000/patient, with some services costing less, Smile Forward will serve as many patients as awarded funds allow.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for ATSU to file their application by June 14, 2019 and be considered for funding from Tohono O'odham 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 A.T. Still University 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 A.T. Still University, 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.