



City Council Report

Date: April 20, 2026
To: City Council
Through: Miranda DeWitt, Government Relations Director
From: Sharon Skinner, Grants Coordinator
Subject: Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application Voices for CASA Children to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in the amount of \$75,000.00 for their CASA Case Enablement Initiative 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 for Voices for CASA Children application to Pascua Yaqui Tribe for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$75,000.00 in funding for their CASA Case Enablement Initiative. 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 these programs serve the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

Background

Voices for CASA Children is a 501(c)(3) organization that brings a voice to Arizona's children by promoting and supporting volunteer advocacy for children who have experienced abuse or neglect, and public awareness of the importance of safe and permanent homes for all children.

The Voices for CASA Children CASA Case Enablement initiative is built on three key pillars: Essentials & Stabilization, Connection & Experiences, and Transportation & Access; designed to equip CASA volunteers with the practical resources they need to deliver highly effective advocacy for children living in foster care in Maricopa County.

The CASA program serves children in the Maricopa County juvenile court system, many of whom reside in or near the City of Mesa. The project will serve children living in foster care across Maricopa County, including an estimated more than 450 children connected to the Mesa community, making Mesa a significant and meaningful part of the countywide population this initiative is designed to support.

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.