



City Council Report

Date: May 18, 2020
To: City Council
Through: Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager, Government Relations
From: Sharon Skinner, Grants Coordinator
Subject: Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Save the Family Foundation of Arizona to the Tohono O’odham Nation in the amount of \$25,000 for their Homeless Families Intervention project 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 Save the Family Foundation of Arizona’s application to Tohono O’odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$25,000 in funding for their Homeless Families Intervention project. 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

In Maricopa County, about 50 families fall into homelessness each week. The situation has not improved in more than a year. As the largest provider of housing and supportive services for homeless families in the East Valley, our Homeless Families Intervention Project serves more than 250 homeless families annually. Awarded funding will support Save the Family’s Homeless Families Intervention Project (HFIP), which provides homeless families with housing, case management and supportive services. Through HFIP, homeless families increase self-sufficiency skills; earn the income needed to support permanent housing; and obtain permanent housing. We match families with the program that best fits their needs and surround them with services and support to ensure their long-term housing and financial stability. An additional 250 families from throughout the East Valley are served each year through the affordable housing affiliate, ARM of Save the Family. Half of all families served through our Homeless Families Intervention Project are Mesa families. This accounts for about 800 family members each year.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Save the Family Foundation of Arizona to file their application by June 2020 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 Save the Family Foundation of Arizona 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 Save the Family Foundation of Arizona, 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.