



# City Council Report

**Date:** April 21, 2025  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Scott J. Butler, Assistant City Manager  
**From:** Sharon Skinner, Grants Coordinator  
**Subject:** Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Tooth B.U.D.D.S. Inc. to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in the amount of \$10,000 to support their Mobile School-Based Oral Hygiene program 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 Tooth B.U.D.D.S. Inc.'s application to Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$10,000 in funding to support their Mobile School-Based Oral Hygiene 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 these programs serve the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

## **Background**

Tooth B.U.D.D.S. (Bringing Understanding of Dental Disease to Schools) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization staffed by Affiliated Practice Dental Hygienists living in the Gila Valley founded in response to the reported disparities in oral health care in the rural counties of Arizona; specifically Graham and Greenlee Counties. Tooth BUDDS has set its focus on the children of this region who, through the efforts of this non-profit and generous funding partners, may receive a dental screening, dental cleaning, fluoride treatment, sealants and Silver Diamine Fluoride applications free of charge in their school setting.

Tooth B.U.D.D.S. Mobile School-Based Oral Hygiene program serves children within the Mesa Unified School District, in which 59% qualify for free/reduced lunch (Mesa Public Schools Research & Evaluation 2023). Tooth B.U.D.D.S. works to improve the oral health and overall health of low-income and underserved Mesa children. We believe that through optimal health outcomes, we will help safeguard at-risk children's long-term capacity to learn and succeed within the school environment.

The applicant anticipates serving 408 students within the Mesa Unified School District with this program.

### **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 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 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.