



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 United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc., to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in the amount of \$50,000.00 for their UNITY College Student Workforce Development 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 United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc., application to Pascua Yaqui Tribe for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$50,000.00 in funding for their UNITY College Student Workforce Development 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

UNITY, a 50-year-old 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Mesa, is responsible for designing, organizing, and hosting the trainings, which is open to all Native American youth ages 14 to 24.

Through this internship program, students will obtain practical experience working with a Mesa-based non-profit organization that focuses on youth leadership development, specifically working with UNITY's youth council network. This project will support a program that functions as a workforce development pipeline for Arizona Native youth.

This project will directly benefit the Mesa community by creating a pathway for Native youth to gain practical, workforce-ready skills in a mission-driven environment, with a focus on leadership development and public engagement. Mesa-area college students will be invited to apply for the internships, preparing them for careers in nonprofit management, public service, and other industries.

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.