



City Council Report

Date: May 20, 2024
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 Tooth B.U.D.D.S. Inc. to the Tohono O’odham Nation in the amount of \$10,000.00 for their Maricopa 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. application to Tohono O’odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$10,000.00.00 in funding for their Maricopa 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 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2016 by a local Community Dental Health Coordinator in response to the reported disparities in oral health care in Arizona’s rural counties of Graham and Greenlee and has more recently expanded to provide services in Maricopa County. Their mission is to improve the oral health of low-income, at-risk populations by providing preventive dental hygiene health care services for children, grades pre-K-12, using evidence-based clinical best practices to ensure no child turns to the medicine cabinet, and then becomes addicted to drugs, because of a toothache.

Tooth B.U.D.D.S intentionally seeks out communities that are under-resourced in an effort to provide a greater equity of services, including low-income communities and provider shortage areas where access to dental health care may be severely limited. Bringing services directly to classrooms helps ensure that all families who want dental services for their children have adequate access. This program serves children within the Mesa Unified School District in which 59% qualify for free/reduced lunch (Mesa Public Schools Research and Evaluation 2023).

The program is expected to serve 200 Mesa residents in 2024.

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 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.