



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 Paz de Cristo Community Center to the Tohono O'odham Nation in the amount of \$20,000 for their Healthy Foods program 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 Paz de Cristo Community Center's application to Tohono O'odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$20,000 in funding for their Healthy Foods 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 this program serves the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

Background

Food insecurity has been linked with adverse diet-related health outcomes in family members of all ages including children. Statistics show that those families living in poverty have a higher rate of medical expenses than those with higher incomes. This is often due to the price variations between healthier and less healthy foods. While Paz de Cristo receives many donations of food, they are often those foods that are high carbs like bread, pastries and desserts and less often healthier fruits, vegetables and protein.

Paz de Cristo Community Center serves as a single resource for the homeless, unemployed, working poor and other needy residents of Mesa. The organization receives an average of 7,000 visits each month from 2,400 unique individuals those seeking food, clothing, showers, AZ identification, government benefits and many other programs to move them toward self-sufficiency. Additionally, the food box program averages 1,300 food box distributions per month mainly to working poor, unemployed, single parent households and senior citizens.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Paz de Cristo Community Center 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 Paz de Cristo Community Center 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 Paz de Cristo Community Center, 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.