



City Council Report

Date: May 15, 2023
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 UNITY to the Tohono O'odham Nation in the amount of \$50,000.00 for their Lighting the Fire Advocacy Training 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 UNITY application to Tohono O'odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$50,000.00 in funding for their Lighting the Fire Advocacy Training 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 is a 47-year-old 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Mesa, is responsible for designing, organizing, and hosting the training, which is open to all Native American youth ages 14 to 24.

Lighting the Fire advocacy training will be conducted by highly skilled trainers with the aim of preparing Native youth to advocate for their needs and to foster positive community, tribal, and school engagement. The training will emphasize the development of a 10-step advocacy plan by the participating youth. This plan will guide the participating youth in stating their goals, objectives, and strategies for implementation, thereby enabling them to effectively pursue and achieve their intended purposes.

Lighting the Fire Advocacy Training will be held over a three-day period in February 2024 in the Phoenix-metro area. The curriculum-based training will bring together an estimated 750 Native American youth and their advisors from Arizona, Mesa, and the nation with 50% from Arizona Tribes.

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.