



City Council Report

Date: April 19, 2021
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 Mesa United Way's Mesa Veteran's Resource Center to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in the amount of \$30,000 in funding to provide services to veterans 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 Mesa United Way's Mesa Veteran's Resource Center application to Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$30,000 in funding to provide services to veterans. 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

Mesa United Way's Mesa Veteran's Resource Center is a local nonprofit that provides valuable services to Mesa's veterans. Operating in the heart of downtown Mesa, this program is convenient and friendly for veterans who may be struggling. Services include navigation through social service providers, direct contact with Veteran Affairs representatives, assistance with emergency shelter, help with employment, and more.

They have also provided necessary emergency services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including emergency shelter for veterans most vulnerable to the virus.

Currently, this program serves an average of 200 veterans per month through phone assistance, walk-in's, and outreach services. It is estimated that approximately 9% of the population of Arizona are U.S. veterans. Since January of 2020, the program has employed over 250 veterans in need of jobs through partnership with Arizona at Work.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Mesa United Way's Mesa Veteran's Resource Center 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 Mesa United Way's Mesa Veteran's Resource 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 Mesa United Way's Mesa Veteran's Resource 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.