



City Council Report

Date: May 17, 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 Arizona Educational Foundation to the Tohono O'odham Nation in the amount of \$25,000 for their "Our World: Educators for Indigenous Students" training 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 Arizona Educational Foundation application to Tohono O'odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$25,000 in funding their "Our World: Educators for Indigenous Students" training program for teachers and administrators in anti-racism, equity, diversity, and inclusion. 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

Arizona Educational Foundation serves public schools statewide, including Mesa Public Schools, through programs like the Arizona Teacher of the Year, A+ Schools of Excellence, the Arizona Spelling bee, teachSTEM, and the Principals Leadership Academy.

The Arizona Educational Foundation seeks \$25,000 to support "Our World: Educators for Indigenous Students," a training program for teachers and administrators in anti-racism, equity, diversity, and inclusion. "Our World" is designed and taught by Arizona Teachers of the Year who prepare educators to better serve Indigenous students and create equitable environments where all students can thrive and feel a sense of belonging.

With this support, every Mesa Public School will be provided "Our World" free of charge. The program would serve 10,000 classified and non-classified staff who, in turn, impact over 64,000 students PK-12th grade.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Arizona Educational Foundation to file their application by the funder's deadline 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 Arizona Educational Foundation 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 Arizona Educational Foundation, 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.