



STAFF REPORT
2/26/2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Jaime Arroyo, Grants Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize a Community-Based Grant to the Friends of the Children – Coachella Valley in the Amount of \$1,000 to Support its Youth Program for Meals

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council consider awarding a Community-Based Grant (CBG) to the Friends of the Children – Coachella Valley in the amount of \$1,000 to support its youth program for meals.

BACKGROUND:

Friends of the Children–Coachella Valley is part of a national network of Friends of the Children chapters across the United States that impact generational change by empowering youth who are facing the greatest obstacles through relationships with professional mentors. Friends of the Children connects children – all of whom have unique talents – to a paid, professional mentor called a Friend. Friends are trained to support the agency’s youth to succeed, despite the extremely challenging situations most experience, from as early as age 4 through high school graduation.

With a distinct and proven model, Friends of the Children has revolutionized the youth mentoring field by creating the first and only long-term professional mentoring program in the country. Each child gets a dedicated, one-on-one Friend who listens to their hopes and dreams. Friends empower our youth to set and achieve their goals. Friends also create meaningful experiences that empower youth to build life skills and make healthy choices while exploring the child's diverse talents and interests. They are skilled at building and nurturing relationships with youth.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Many of the youth selected to participate in the Friends of the Children – Coachella Valley program face multiple risk factors. Currently, the program is serving 12 children from Valley View and Palm View Elementary in the Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD). With food insecurity being a common issue with these families, the program provides meals to the youth that are mentored and their caregivers while on outing and/or in emergent situations. The \$1,000 request will go towards the purchase of said meals. All meals and food will be

purchased from the Coachella area, which in turn will support the community. The program also applies for funding through other avenues and solicits donations during community awareness presentation in order to keep being able to provide supplemental food.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a Community Based Grant in the amount of \$1,000
2. Do not award a Community Based Grant

FISCAL IMPACT:

Should the City Council approve the staff recommendation, the Community-Based Grant Program account will be reduced by \$1,000.

ATTACHMENT(S):

CBG Application Packet