



STAFF REPORT
2/10/2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Celina Jimenez, Grants Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize a Community Based Grant to College of the Desert in the Amount of \$1,000 to Support its Book Loan Program

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council consider authorizing a Community-Based Grant to College of the Desert in the amount of \$1,000 to help them purchase textbooks for a book loan program for students enrolled in the Coachella Valley Adult School evening college pilot program with College of the Desert.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Based Grant Program was established in 2010 and allows the City of Coachella to offer financial assistance to local nonprofit organizations, youth-serving organizations, and other community-based organizations that provide essential services, programs and activities to residents in Coachella. Applicant organizations are only eligible to submit one application for consideration each fiscal year and must be legally established with non-profit or tax-exempt status, be based in the Coachella Valley, or provide direct service to Coachella residents. Approval of grant funds does not constitute a precedent for grant allocations in subsequent years. All CBG grants are reimbursement grants to ensure that applicants are meeting their stated goals. The FY 20-21 budget included an allocation of \$15,000 for the Community Based Grant Program.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

College of the Desert is one of over 115 community colleges in California and a vital part of the world's largest system of higher education. The governing body of College of the Desert is the Desert Community College District, which has five elected members on its Board of Trustees and a Student Trustee elected by the Student Body.

Through a partnership with the City of Coachella and the Coachella Valley Adult School, College of the Desert is offering a guaranteed two-year General Education (GE) schedule at the Coachella Library. Upon completion, students earn a Certificate of Achievement and meet the GE requirements to transfer to UCs, CSUs, and many other four-year institutions. Through this program, students will receive access to key academic and student support services such as

financial aid, registration support, online counseling, and free 24/7/365 online tutoring services to help them achieve success. The convenient Monday and Wednesday evening schedule allow students additional opportunities to take other major coursework during the day, evening, or weekends at our many campus locations, or online. Enrollment preference is given to recent Coachella Valley Adult School students for the full two years. Non-CVAS students may register for classes if seats are still available.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize a Community Based Grant to College of the Desert in the Amount of \$1,000 to Support its Book Loan Program
2. Do not Authorize a Community Based Grant to College of the Desert in the Amount of \$1,000 to Support its Book Loan Program

FISCAL IMPACT:

Should the City Council approve the staff recommendation, the Community Based Grant account will be reduced by \$1,000.00 leaving \$12,000.00 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Copy of Application