



CITY OF POMONA

COUNCIL REPORT

March 18, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE SUBMITTAL OF TWO COMMUNITY WELLBEING
GRANT APPLICATIONS TO TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

- 1) Authorize staff to submit two grant applications for projects eligible for the Tri-City Community Wellbeing Program in the total amount of \$20,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Tri-City Mental Health Center announced a funding opportunity for its Community Wellbeing Program to help communities build their own capacity and strengthen the wellbeing of their community. Community Services requests Council's approval to submit two grant applications to support the Heroes of Pomona Speech Contest and implementation of a Tolerance Series.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Each grant provides up to \$10,000 per project. The project expenses will be offset by the revenue and will be brought into the operating budget if the grants are received. There is no match requirement.

PREVIOUS RELATED ACTION:

On March 19, 2018, City Council authorized the submittal of two grant applications for Tri-City Mental Health Center Community Wellbeing grants. On July 16, 2018, City Council authorized the acceptance of \$8,000 in grant funds awarded by Tri-City Mental Health Center to operate the Heroes of Pomona Speech Contest; and authorized the City Manager to execute the appropriate contracts for acceptance of the award.

DISCUSSION:

Tri-City Mental Health Center is a public agency, providing comprehensive mental health services to the diverse communities of Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne. The Community Wellbeing Grant, as part of the Tri-City Prevention and Early Intervention Plan, provides monetary grants and technical assistance to help communities build their own capacity to strengthen the wellbeing of people ages 0-25 and the community. Tri-City recognizes that prevention of mental and emotional distress can be as vital as treating those who are already suffering. Through the Community Wellbeing Grant, Tri-City supports and partners with the community and groups within the three cities that are doing the vital work of maintaining or improving community wellbeing.

Staff researched the grant guidelines and determined the following projects align with this funding opportunity.

Heroes of Pomona Speech Contest

This is the second year in a row that the City of Pomona's Community Services Division will be applying for this grant. Last year, the City was awarded \$8,000 to create the Heroes of Pomona Speech Contest and this application will allow the City to continue the program for a second year. The goal of this program is to improve the wellbeing of After School Recreation program participants, provide them with opportunities to develop communication and public speaking skills, and to recognize Pomona as a vibrant, safe and beautiful community. As part of this contest, staff will encourage participants to identify Pomona individuals who exemplify strong character, resilience and have made a significant and positive impact in their life, their neighborhood and/or community. Participants will compose and present a speech commemorating their Pomona hero and have the opportunity to compete in a citywide speech contest. Winners of the speech contest will receive a cash scholarship prize to go toward college.

Tolerance Series

The goal of this project is to help teens enrolled in the After School Recreation program build empathy, encourage acceptance, value differences and inspire action. The Tolerance Series will engage teens in personal reflection, examine common beliefs and biases, raise awareness of the experiences of others, and explore ways in creating an inclusive society. Sensitively-designed activities and discussions will be tailored to focus on issues that are particularly relevant to our community. The series will include with a field trip to a multimedia museum designed to examine racism and prejudice surrounding the Holocaust.

Prepared by:

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