

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 1, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION PROPOSAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF FY 2006 CHILDREN'S FUND
MONIES

ISSUE: City Council consideration of the recommendations of the Early Childhood Commission Proposal Review Committee for the use of \$1,098,954 in FY 2006 Children's Fund dollars.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council approve the following:

- (1) A \$60,000 set-aside for the Virginia Preschool Initiative;
- (2) A \$35,000 set-aside for continuation funding for the Mount Vernon Head Start site;
- (3) A \$25,000 set-aside for early childhood training programs;
- (4) The remaining \$978,954 be designated to fund eight projects that provide quality child care and comprehensive services to at-risk children; and
- (5) Any unexpended funds from the FY 2006 Children's Fund programs be reallocated to the Crisis Aid Child Care Fund or the Child Day Care Fee System.

BACKGROUND: On May 2, 2005, City Council approved an appropriation of \$1,098,954 for the FY 2006 Children's Fund. On March 15, 2005, the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) issued a Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP) to approximately 400 providers, centers and interested parties. Organizations apply either for funds to provide quality early childhood programs, which require a match; or for funds to provide comprehensive services for at-risk children, which do not require a match.

DISCUSSION: The Children's Fund Review Committee was composed of five members: the Director of Human Services (Chair), three members of the ECC and a staff member from the Alexandria City Public Schools. The Committee reviewed nine proposals with funding requests totaling \$1,207,434 and presented their unanimous recommendations to the ECC, for their information only, on June 13, 2005. All organizations which received funding received at least the same funding (some were higher) in FY 2006 as FY 2005.

Proposals Recommended for Approval: Of the \$1,098,954 available, \$120,000 was allocated to the following three projects:

- \$60,000 in continuation funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative to assist parents in the payment of child care fees. This allocation is recommended as part of a local match that drew down \$196,560 in state dollars in FY 2005;
- \$35,000 in continuation funding for the Mount Vernon Head Start site; and
- \$25,000 for early childhood training for family child care providers and center staff.

The Review Committee allocated the balance of available funds, \$978,954, to eight of the nine proposals, as follows:

Preschool Slots

- \$238,955 in continuation funding for Child and Family Network Centers, a program that currently provides quality child care and comprehensive services to 140 at-risk children and their families.
- \$30,000 in continuation funding for the West End classrooms, which serve 32 at-risk children and their families under the Child and Family Network Centers model.

Comprehensive Services Programs

- \$328,090 in continuation funding for Healthy Families Alexandria to provide intensive, home-based child abuse prevention services to more than 250 first-time parents and their infants who have been identified as being at-risk;
- \$195,682 in continuation funding for the Family Support Project which, in collaboration with the Virginia Preschool Initiative, provides supportive services to the families of 330 at-risk preschoolers who attend one of four full-day, accredited child care programs at eight sites in the City;
- \$63,018 in continuation funding for the Alexandria Resource Mothers (ARMS) program of the Northern Virginia Urban League, which works with pregnant teens and teenage mothers to ensure that they and their infants receive appropriate medical care and that the teens stay in school and avoid second pregnancies;
- \$47,419 in continuation funding for medical and case management services from the Alexandria Health Department. These funds help lower waiting times to three weeks or less for first-time prenatal appointments and increase the percentage of pregnant women who receive prenatal care during their first trimester;

- \$65,590 in continuation funding for a preschool prevention project that provides mental health assessment and treatment to 1,000 at-risk children, parents and teachers with the goal of improving behaviors in the classroom and increasing the chances for success of children and families. The project will also provide parenting education, parent workshops and support groups and training for teachers; and
- \$10,200 in continuation funding for the Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) Parent Nurturing Program for a portion of the salary of a Parent Education Coordinator and a Parent Education Manager who implement parenting education programs for high risk families.

The ninth proposal requested \$10,000 for training in the use of the Child Observation Record (COR). Funds for this training were included in the FY 2006 Department of Human Services budget.

Policy for Unexpended Funds: The ECC Proposal Review Committee recommends that City Council continue the policy for the use of unexpended funds adopted by the ECC and first endorsed by City Council in FY 1997. This policy states that if any funds allocated to Children's Fund programs remain unspent at the end of the fiscal year, those funds will be reallocated to the Crisis Aid Child Care Fund or the Child Day Care Fee System.

FISCAL IMPACT: A total of \$1,098,954 is available in the FY 2006 Children's Fund. The Early Childhood Commission established \$120,000 in set-asides: 1) \$35,000 for the Mount Vernon Head Start site; 2) \$60,000 for the Virginia Preschool Initiative; and 3) \$25,000 for early childhood training. The ECC Proposal Review Committee recommends the awarding of grants to eight programs for the remaining \$978,954. If City Council approves the ECC Proposal Review Committee recommendations for the FY 2006 Children's Fund, no uncommitted funds will remain.

Copies of the proposals and ECC Proposal Review Committee reports are available for review in the Office for Early Childhood Development, Department of Human Services, 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue.

ATTACHMENT: Children's Fund FY 2006 Funding Recommendations

STAFF:

Debra R. Collins, Director, Department of Human Services
 Jack Powers, Director, Community Programs, DHS
 Carol Farrell, Director, Office for Early Childhood Development, DHS
 Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget
 Carol Moore, Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

FY 2006 CHILDREN'S FUND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS
JUNE 13, 2005

NAME OF PROJECT	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	COMP SCVS	LOCAL MATCH	FY 2003 FUNDING	FY 2004 FUNDING	FY 2005 FUNDING	FUNDING REQUEST	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS								
Child and Family Network Centers	Same		X	\$227,850	\$210,065	\$210,065	\$289,242	\$238,955
Child and Family Network Centers	Same		X			\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

NON-PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS								
Healthy Families Alexandria	No. Va. Fam. Services		X	\$350,000	\$315,000	\$315,000	\$350,000	\$328,090
Family Support Project	Alexandria Accredited Preschools	X		\$151,000	\$180,500	\$195,682	\$323,817	\$195,682
Resource Mothers	No. Va. Urban League		X	\$70,020	\$63,018	\$63,018	\$63,018	\$63,018
Prenatal Project	Alex. Health Department	X		\$47,132	\$47,419	\$47,419	\$50,084	\$47,419
COR Training Project	Charlottesville N. Umoja	X		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000 ¹	\$0
Preschool Prevention Team	Community Services Board	X			\$62,430	\$62,430	\$71,073	\$65,590
Parent Nurturing Project	Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN)	X		\$10,200	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$20,200	\$10,200
FUNDING REQUESTED THROUGH PROPOSALS							\$1,207,434	\$978,954

SET ASIDES RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING								
VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE/SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN								
							\$60,000	\$60,000
MOUNT VERNON HEAD START CLASSROOM								
							\$35,000	\$35,000
EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING BUDGET								
							\$25,000	\$25,000
TOTAL SET-ASIDES							\$120,000	\$120,000
TOTAL CHILDREN'S FUND REQUESTS							\$1,327,434	
TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE/RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING							\$1,098,954	\$1,098,954

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¹ The funding for this training has been added to the Department of Human Services budget for FY 2006.