

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 31, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE AFTER SCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM FOR AT RISK CHILDREN

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant award from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for funding from the "After School Snack Program for At Risk Children."

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Approve requests to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for monthly reimbursement not to exceed \$171,288 in estimated annual program expenses; and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities offers after school programs at 16 sites throughout the City. While these programs offer structured and supervised activities, the Department cannot enforce participation and attendance. Out of concern for the children's safety and security, the Department has been working to license its after school programs. To date three sites, Mt. Vernon, William Ramsay, and Cora Kelly (5-8 year old program), are licensed. As a part of licensing standards, these sites are required to provide snacks for the participants. The Department has subsequently adjusted its annual operating budget and snacks are served daily at these sites. The provision of snacks was not a component of the Department's after school offering prior to licensing. Providing snacks to all after school sites is desirable. This grant will allow us that opportunity.

The Alexandria City Public Schools currently participates in an after school USDA National School Lunch Program snack program and snacks are served at Cora Kelly, Jefferson Houston, Maury, Mt. Vernon, Samuel Tucker and William Ramsay Elementary Schools. Only school-sponsored programs are eligible for this particular program, but we found that the Department is eligible for the After School Snack Program administered by the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program. This program, which the Department has participated in since 2004, provides cash reimbursement to nonprofit entities for snacks served to children and youth who participate regularly in structured and

supervised after school activities. The Campagna Kids Program has received reimbursements from this program since 2000 for seven of its sites: Jefferson Houston, Lyles Crouch, Maury, Mt. Vernon, Patrick Henry, Samuel Tucker and William Ramsay Elementary Schools.

In November 2004, staff was notified that funding will be continued, retroactive from October 2004 through September 2007. Through this 10-month reimbursable program, the City is eligible for a maximum of \$17,128 per month, with an annual maximum reimbursement of \$171,288.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will administer the program at 16 sites. These sites meet the criteria established by the Child and Adult Food Program of USDA, they are “located in a geographical area served by a school in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduce priced school meals.” In this case, the qualifying schools are the City’s two middle schools. Free snacks are being served to the participants at each site, Monday through Friday. As with the USDA Summer Food Service Program, the Department will contract with the Alexandria City Public Schools Food Service Department to prepare and deliver snacks to the following after school sites:

AFTER SCHOOL SITES	NUMBER TO BE SERVED
1. William Ramsay Recreation Center	150
2. Cora Kelly Recreation Center	150
3. Patrick Henry Recreation Center	140
4. John Adams Elementary School	140
5. Mt. Vernon Recreation Center	120
6. Francis Hammond Middle School Power-Up Program	90
7. Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center	40
8. Charles Houston Recreation Center	75
9. George Washington Middle School Power-Up Program	75
10. Jefferson-Houston Elementary School	60
11. Maury Elementary School	30
12. Lee Center Therapeutic Program	24
13. Chinquapin Center Therapeutic Program	15
14. George Mason After School Program	45
15. MacArthur After School Program	90
16. Charles Barrett Recreation Center	<u>85</u>
Total	1,329

FISCAL IMPACT: The snacks must be served free of charge in order to receive the .65 cents per meal reimbursement rate from USDA. There is no requirement for the City to provide either cash or an in-kind match for this program, however, the City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency (Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities), as well as by the Office of Management and Budget and by the Finance Department. It should be noted that there

are no additional monies available in the City budget to provide these activities if the \$171,288 reimbursement is not received. The After School Snack Program for At Risk Children is funded by the USDA through September 2007. A renewal application will be submitted in Summer 2007 for future school years.

STAFF:

Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Margaret Orlando, Recreation Supervisor IV, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Kendel Taylor, Budget Analyst