


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE: Submission of Grant application for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding from the Summer Food Service Program for Children now administered through the Virginia Department of Health for Virginia program sponsors.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council authorize staff to:

1. Submit the grant application (due April 22, 2011) to the Virginia Department of Health for the United States Department of Agriculture for continued funding, and an estimated reimbursement amount of \$112,000 for program expenses;
2. Affirm that there are no funds available in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended; and
3. Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities has administered the Summer Food Service Program since 1979. In order to participate, program sites must meet the criteria established by the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program of the USDA. The site must be "located in a geographical area served by a school or center in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduce priced meals." Eligible programs will be able to serve up to two of the following meals: breakfast, lunch or snacks at no cost to the participants. The meal program will commence on June 27, 2011, and will operate Monday through Friday, excluding the July 4 holiday and end August 19, 2011.

As with the USDA After School Snack Program, the Department will contract with the Alexandria City Public Schools Food Service Department to prepare and deliver meals to 21 summer programs. The locations of these programs are: Charles Houston, Cora Kelly, Mt. Vernon, Nannie J. Lee, Patrick Henry, and William Ramsay Recreation Centers; Power-Up Program at George Washington Middle School; Tancil Court/Ruby Tucker Center, Montgomery Street Learning Center, John Adams, James Mulligan Park, MacArthur and Ben Brenman Playgrounds; Therapeutic Recreation - Teen Scene and Camp Kaleidoscope at Lee Center; Alexandria Olympic Boys and Girls Club; Campagna Kids at three locations; Community Lodgings and Brent Place Apartments. An estimated 2,000 program participants, age 18 years and under, who attend one of the eligible sites will be served.

FISCAL IMPACT: The meals must be served free of charge in order to receive reimbursement 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 continue these activities once the estimated \$112,000 in program funds have been exhausted. However, as has been the case for decades, it is expected that the federal government will renew this funding in future fiscal years.

STAFF:

James B. Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

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