

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 8, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER^S

SUBJECT: EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION PROPOSAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF FY 2005 CHILDREN'S FUND
MONIES

ISSUE: City Council consideration of the recommendations of the Early Childhood Commission Proposal Review Committee for the use of \$1,053,814 in FY 2005 Children's Fund monies.

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 \$933,814 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 2005 Children's Fund programs be reallocated to the Crisis Aid Child Care Fund or the Child Day Care Fee System.

BACKGROUND: On May 3, 2004, City Council approved an appropriation of \$1,053,814 for the FY 2005 Children's Fund. On March 15, 2004, the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) issued a Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP) for the FY 2005 Children's Fund 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), a member of the ECC who represents the School Board, an

at-large member of the ECC, a staff member from the Alexandria City Public Schools and a staff member of the Office on Women. The Committee reviewed ten proposals with funding requests totaling \$1,296,335 and presented their unanimous recommendations to the ECC, for their information only, on June 7, 2004.

Proposals Recommended for Approval: Of the \$1,053,814, \$120,000 was allocated to the following four projects:

- \$35,000 in continuation funding for the Mount Vernon Head Start site;
- \$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 will draw down up to \$189,000 in state dollars; and
- \$25,000 for early childhood training for family child care providers and center staff.

The Review Committee allocated the balance of available funds, \$933,814, to eight of the ten proposals, as follows:

Preschool Slots

- \$210,065 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 expansion funding for a new classroom in the West End, which will serve 16 at-risk children and their families under the Child and Family Network Centers model.

Comprehensive Services Programs

- \$315,000 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;
- \$62,430 for a preschool prevention project that provides mental health assessment and treatment to 450 at-risk children and their parents 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 funds 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.

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, operated by the Department of Human Services.

FISCAL IMPACT: A total of \$1,053,814 is available in the FY 2005 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 \$933,814. If City Council approves the ECC Proposal Review Committee recommendations for the FY 2005 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.

ATTACHMENTS: Children's Fund FY 2005 Funding Recommendations

STAFF:

Carol Farrell, Director of the Office for Early Childhood Development, DHS
 Jack Powers, Director of Community Programs, DHS
 Carol Moore, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget
 Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget
 Debra Collins, Director, DHS
 Mark Jinks, Assistant City Manager for Fiscal and Financial Affairs

**CHILDREN'S FUND
FY 2005 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

NAME OF PROJECT	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	COMP SCVS	LOCAL MATCH	FY 2002 FUNDING	FY 2003 FUNDING	FY 2004 FUNDING	FUNDING REQUEST	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS								
Child and Family Network Centers	Same		X	\$227,850	\$227,850	\$210,065	\$289,242	\$210,065
Child and Family Network Centers	Same		X				\$30,000	\$30,000

NON-PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Healthy Families Alexandria	No. Va. Fam. Services		X	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$315,000	\$350,000	\$315,000
Family Support Project	Alexandria Accredited Preschools	X		\$151,000	\$151,000	\$180,500	\$323,817	\$195,682
Resource Mothers	No. Va. Urban League		X	\$70,020	\$70,020	\$63,018	\$63,018	\$63,018
Prenatal Project	Alex. Health Department	X		\$47,132	\$47,132	\$47,419	\$52,695	\$47,419
COR Training Project	Charlotte N. Umoja	X		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,538 ¹	\$0
Mental Health Services	Center for Multi-Cultural Human Services	X			\$31,215	\$0	N/A	\$0
Psychological Services	Child Development Services, LLC	X			\$31,215	\$0	\$83,499	\$0
Preschool Prevention Team	Community Services Board	X		\$62,430		\$62,430	\$72,326	\$62,430
Parent Nurturing Project	Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN)	X		\$10,200	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$20,200	\$10,200
TOTALS						\$888,632	\$1,296,335	\$933,814

SET ASIDES RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE/SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN									
MOUNT VERNON HEAD START									
EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING BUDGET									
CHILDREN'S FUND GRAND TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED							\$1,053,814		

¹Funds for the COR training will come from the Department of Human Services budget.