


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 14, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: APPLICATION TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR PLAYGROUND RENOVATION AND INSTALLATION OF A SECURITY SYSTEM AT THE JEFFERSON HOUSTON HEAD START SITE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of an application to the Federal Health and Human Services Head Start Bureau for \$75,670 in one-time funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council approve an application to the federal Health and Human Services Head Start Bureau for one-time funding for the following projects at the Jefferson Houston Head Start site:

- \$54,950 for playground renovation;
- \$17,700 for the replacement of cabinets in four classrooms; and
- \$3,020 for the installation of a security system.

BACKGROUND: The City of Alexandria is the grantee for the Alexandria Head Start (AHS) program. For the past 39 years, the City has contracted with The Campagna Center to provide the day-to-day operation of the program. AHS serves 268 children at six sites in the City.

DISCUSSION: Head Start performance standards require that programs maintain a healthy and safe environment for children. Performance standard 1304.53(a)(7) states that, "Grantee and delegate agencies must provide for the maintenance, repair, safety and security of all Early Head Start and Head Start facilities, materials and equipment.

The Jefferson Houston site needs a security system that will allow teaching staff to screen visitors without leaving the classroom which places them in violation of state licensing regulations. The cabinets in the Head Start classrooms were installed 12 years ago and have deteriorated to the point that they pose a potential hazard to the children. The playground must be replaced because it no longer is in compliance with ADA regulations or State licensing standards.

FISCAL IMPACT: The local match requirement for these funds is \$18,918. The proposed source of the local match will come from the Campagna Center's current budget. No new local dollars are required.

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Carol Moore, Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

Debra R. Collins, Director, Department of Human Services

Jack Powers, Director, Community Programs, DHS

Carol Farrell, Director, Office for Early Childhood Development, DHS