



Council Agenda Report

Item 6k

Department: Parks and Recreation
Cost Center: 7003
For Agenda of: 10/19/2021
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Greg Avakian, Parks & Recreation Director
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SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR A LICENSED CHILDCARE FACILITY STABILIZATION STIPEND FROM CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve a Resolution entitled, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, approving the application for a Licensed Child Care Facility Stabilization Stipend"; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary stipend documents and appropriate the stipend amount into the Parks and Recreation Department's budget upon award.

DISCUSSION

In April 2021, the State of California and California Child Care Providers United agreed to provide COVID-19 financial relief paid directly to licensed childcare providers. The 2021-22 State Budget recently approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Newsom therefore includes "Licensed Childcare Facility Stabilization" stipend funds, which are being distributed by the CDSS. These one-time "licensed stipends" will be facilitated by the Community Care Licensing Division's Childcare Program in response to the need created by the COVID-19 pandemic. These licensed stipends are intended to help stabilize existing licensed childcare facility operations and provide support for expenses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic including, but not limited to:

- Staff incentives or bonus pay
- Increased costs due to cleaning, sanitization, and other COVID-19 related operating expenses
- Increased costs associated with distance learning
- Support for decreased enrollment
- Any other activity necessary to maintain or resume facility operations, including support for fixed costs

The City provides licensed childcare programming at five school sites in the City of San Luis Obispo and is eligible to apply for the stipend. Due to current work conditions, staff have continued to face challenges in recruitment and retention of qualified childcare aides, teachers, and head teachers. Staff anticipates utilizing the stipend to provide competitive wages as well as augmented funding for scholarships to help support families impacted economically by the COVID-19 pandemic and provide childcare to children in need.

Policy Context

The City's Financial Management Manual, Section 740, requires City Council authorization to submit grant applications in excess of \$5,000. In particular, section 3(d) states:

For grants in excess of \$5,000, prepare a Council Agenda Report requesting authorization to seek grant funding. This report should describe the grant program's conformance with this policy, including the results of the cost/benefit analysis.

Staff finds that submittal of a stipend application for City childcare programming meets the City's Grant Management Policy, outlined in Section 740, as there is an opportunity to significantly leverage City funds on balance with only modest staff time required to prepare the stipend application; the proposed stipend applications would result in additional priority work efforts being implemented; and, all stipend administration, tracking, and reporting will be conducted in accordance with applicable City policy and any requirements specified in an awarded contract.

Public Engagement

As this is an authorization to apply for stipend funding from the CDSS, no additional public Outreach was undertaken. The item will be considered by City Council during public session.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the recommended action in this report, because the action does not constitute a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines sec. 15378.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: Yes

Funding Identified: Yes

Budget Year: 2021-22

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund	N/A*	\$	\$	\$
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$	\$	\$	\$

* Project/service will be completed through budgeted in-house resources

The City's Parks and Recreation Department has time allocated within its normal work program to prepare and submit the stipend application. If successful, the \$28,000 stipend will augment the current Youth Services operating budget by providing funding for competitive wages, costs associated with cleaning, sanitization, and other COVID-19 related operating expenses, and student scholarships.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The City Council could request additional information or analysis from staff.
2. The City Council could deny the request to submit a stipend application.

ATTACHMENTS

A – Draft Resolution authorizing staff to pursue a licensed childcare facility stabilization stipend