

APPROVED
2-15-2017

BOARD REPORT

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

NO. 17-026

DATE February 15, 2017

C.D. 9

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RALPH M. PARSONS PRESCHOOL AT EXPO CENTER – CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2017-2018 CALIFORNIA STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM EXPANSION – AUTHORIZATION FOR FUNDING APPLICATION FOR SUBSIDIZED PRESCHOOL SERVICES; ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS

AP Diaz	_____	*V. Israel	_____
R. Barajas	_____	N. Williams	_____
H. Fujita	_____		



General Manager

Approved

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Retroactively authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to submit a funding application to the California Department of Education (CDE) for the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$323,317.00), in funding under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-2018 California State Preschool Program (CSPP) Expansion for subsidized preschool services at the Ralph M. Parsons Preschool within EXPO Center, subject to Mayor and City Council consideration;
2. Direct RAP staff to transmit a copy of the funding application to the Mayor, Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and to the City Clerk for Committee and City Council approval before accepting and receiving the grant award, pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6 et seq. as may be amended;
3. Authorize RAP's General Manager to accept and receive funding from CDE in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$323,317.00), under the FY 2017-2018 CSPP, if awarded, for subsidized preschool services at the Ralph M. Parsons Preschool within EXPO Center, subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Council;
4. Designate RAP's General Manager, Chief Financial Officer, or Assistant General Manager, as the agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the implementation and completion of the project(s);

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5. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to establish the necessary account and/or to appropriate funding received within "Recreation and Parks Grant" Fund 205 to accept the FY 2017-2018 CSPP funding, if awarded, in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$323,317.00) from the CDE for subsidized preschool services at the Ralph M. Parsons Preschool within EXPO Center; and,
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make any technical changes, as may be necessary to effectuate the intent of these funds.

SUMMARY

The Ralph M. Parsons Preschool within EXPO Center (Parsons) is a State-licensed preschool able to serve up to ninety (90) children ages three to five. In 2006, RAP received an initial grant from the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) to subsidize thirty-two (32) children for a half-day preschool at Parsons. LAUP is the local non-profit organization which has received and distributed a portion of funds generated from the 1998 passage of Proposition 10, the Tobacco Tax, to eligible preschool providers in Los Angeles. Since the initial grant award, RAP has continued to receive a grant annually to subsidize about one-third (1/3) of the Parsons preschool enrollment while the remaining preschool slots are enrolled with children whose families pay customary fees, which typically amount to Eighty Dollars (\$80.00) per week for half-day preschool to One Hundred Forty Dollars (\$140.00) for full-day preschool. Funding from LAUP to Ralph M. Parsons ended in FY 2015-2016. Effective FY 2016-2017 CDE provided funding in the amount of \$323,317 for Ralph M. Parsons. The original grant amount of \$307,972 was changed in Amendment 01 to \$323,317.

LAUP has communicated to RAP that previously available LAUP grant funds are no longer available. In seeking alternative funding sources to continue to help low-income families within the EXPO Center service area, RAP staff learned that the CDE has funding to expand the number of grantees under the CSPP program and would be conducting a competitive process for preschools to apply for new funding. The Request for Proposals documents were promulgated by the CDE in November 2016, and RAP attended both on-line and local seminars to learn about the process of applying on behalf of Parsons. Based on the CDE formulas, the application to fund full-time enrollment for thirty (30) full-time preschool children is for a maximum reimbursable amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$323,317.00). If awarded this funding for FY 2017-2018, RAP will be able to provide child care services at Parsons for thirty (30) full-time four-year-olds from families with incomes at or below the seventy-five percent (75%) of the State median income level.

Studies have shown that preschool programming helps children develop academic, cognitive, and behavioral skills that have proven to increase their chances for future success. The full day services also give participants' parents, who would otherwise be unable to afford these services, the opportunity to seek employment or return to school in hopes of creating better economic opportunities for their families.

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The FY 2017-18 application was submitted before the deadline of December 1, 2016. Awards and amounts are typically announced once the State of California budget for the subject fiscal year is approved.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The acceptance of this CDE grant does not require match funding. The grants assist RAP by providing additional funding to continue the subsidized preschool program at the Ralph M. Parsons Preschool within EXPO Center and improve services from half-day to full-day services.

This report was prepared by Jennifer Sapone, Senior Management Analyst I, Partnership Division.