



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: April 22, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services

Subject: Community Services Department Scholarship Program

Attachments:

1. Scholarship application
2. Number and amounts of scholarships awarded, 2001-present

INTRODUCTION

The Community Services Department seeks City Council guidance on whether amendments or changes should be made to the low income scholarship program, particularly relating to afterschool care.

DISCUSSION

The Community Services Department has been offering a scholarship program for over 20 years. It was created to assist parents who may not have the financial means to allow for a discounted fee on a week of summer camp, a session of swim lesson, or an afterschool enrichment class for their child. .

As it was originally conceived, the scholarship program was not intended to provide services to low income families at no cost to the family. Rather it was intended to partially offset the cost of a camp or class, requiring the recipient family to pay at least 50% of the cost of the class or program. For example, an enrichment class for \$100 per session requires the recipient to pay \$50 and the City subsidizes the remaining \$50. The current scholarship program limits are \$200 per child and \$400 per family per year. If the program the family desires is provided by a contractual instructor, the City still pays the instructor the full percentage rate split as stipulated in their Agreement, regardless of how many participants in the class receive a scholarship. Scholarship awards are not rolled over to the next year. Parents need to reapply each year. The attached document reflects the last thirteen years that the program has been recorded. Scholarships awarded these past years average thirteen families per year with an average annual cost of to the City of approximately \$3,600.

Scholarships are awarded based on family income. Income is based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for Los Angeles County the category of extremely low income. These guidelines vary based on household size. For example, in 2014 the gross income limit for a family of 4 would be \$25,600. A study by the Southern California Association of Governments, published in July 2011 showed that of the 14,415 households in Beverly Hills, 11% or 1518 households, fall into the category of extremely low income.

It should also be noted that there are some limited opportunities for all families to receive discounts on classes or camps. For example, if families sign up for summer camps or classes during the Department Showcase at the Farmer's Market, they can receive up to a \$20 discount on each class or camp.

At a recent meeting, the City Council asked to review the scholarship program, particularly relating to the provision of after school care. At the time of the Scholarship Program's inception, the City of Beverly Hills was providing:

1. Adventure Camp, the afterschool camp for children from K-5th grade for a monthly fee
2. a free Afterschool Playground Program from 2pm-5pm, and 1st -8th grade.
3. fee-based afterschool enrichment classes. K-8th grade.

The School District also had playground aides on site until 4pm.

In approximately 2010, during the times of budgetary constraints, the City ceased providing the Afterschool Playground Program which was a \$72,900 annual cost. This program was provided by the City in addition to the Joint Powers Agreement financial obligation.

When the Afterschool Playground Program was eliminated, the School District expanded the hours of the playground aides until 5pm to compensate for the loss of the City's program.

At the start of the 2013/14 school year, the School District advised parents that the Playground Aides would remain on-site only until 4pm, citing as their reason that the number of children who remain afterschool from 4pm to 5pm significantly dwindles to a small handful. This was also the City's experience when the Afterschool Playground Program was in place. This decision provided parents with two options for on-site childcare after 4pm: the City's Adventure Camp or afterschool enrichment classes. As a result, these programs experienced an unexpected increase in enrollment and the Recreation division needed to hire new staff and request an additional room for Adventure Camp from the School District at one school to accommodate the growth. There are currently 131 total children enrolled in Adventure Camp at all four schools with only Beverly Vista having a waitlist of 1 child.

Staff has contacted other local cities and school districts to investigate the types of low cost or afterschool programs that are offered. The Santa Monica Unified School District offers free and subsidized afterschool care starting at 7am and ending at 6 pm. Childcare fees range from no charge to \$17.75 per full time day of care. This program is

funded through the State of California Department of Education. There are a number of factors which determine the level of subsidy offered to families. The priority order for families requesting subsidy is based on:

1. Homelessness
2. Child Protective Services CPS
3. At Risk
4. Lowest Rank

Los Angeles Unified School District also offers a subsidized after school program, called the After School Education and Safety Program, for Title 1 schools that are funded through State grants. These programs are offered until 6 pm, Title 1 determination is based on neighborhood income and school performance. For example, Canfield, Crescent Heights and Hancock Park elementary schools do not qualify; however many schools in South Central and East Los Angeles do qualify. LA Unified also offers playground supervision without cost at all elementary schools for children in 2nd-6th grades, until 6 pm.

The scholarships that other nearby cities offer vary widely. West Hollywood used to offer a scholarship program, but eliminated it in 2011. Santa Monica offers a program with a \$350 cap per year. Culver City does not offer a program. Pasadena offers a subsidy of 50-100%, depending on the program and income. They are considering a cap of \$450 per family.

OPTIONS

Should the City Council wish to modify the approach to afterschool care, there are a number of ways in which low or no cost care could be offered. If the goal is to provide playground supervision until 6 pm, the Council could choose to have City staff take over the 4 pm-6 pm timeslot at the K-8 schools after the Playground Aides leave at 4 pm. This would most effectively be done by hiring an additional Adventure Camp staff person at each school who could work in the Camp until 4 pm and then supervise the remaining children on the playground until 6 pm. Alternatively, staff could explore the possibility of extending the JPA to have Playground Aides stay until 6 pm. This would likely require providing additional funds to the School District for the specific purpose of extending the schedule of the Playground Aides. Staff has not yet discussed this possibility with the District.

If the goal is to provide afterschool enrichment for students, City Council may want to expand the scholarship program to provide more assistance for parents who want to enroll their children in Adventure Camp or afterschool enrichment classes. This could be done in a number of ways, for example:

- Raise or eliminate the annual cap (currently is \$200 per child and \$400 per family)
- Raise the annual income levels to the "very low income level" which is \$34,200 per family of 4 per year or to the "low income" level which is \$68,300 per year.
- Establish a fund under the Charitable Foundation where contributions could be gathered to offset the cost of after school care.

FISCAL IMPACT

As indicated above, the current scholarship program costs the City approximately \$3,600 per year in revenues. Should the City Council decide to change the parameters of the scholarship program, it will likely have an impact on revenues over time. Once City

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Council has given general direction on this issue, staff will come back with some cost analysis.

RECOMMENDATION

Afterschool programs vary amongst cities with many being funded through state and federal grants, as well as a through a charitable fund created by the City and offset by community contributions. Staff seeks Council's general direction on this issue and can come back to City Council at a later date with options for a revised program.

Don Rhoads, Director of
Administrative Services



Nancy Hunt-Coffey

Approved By

Attachment 1



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The City of Beverly Hills Community Services Department established the scholarship program to ensure that all City residents are afforded an opportunity to participate in Community Services Department classes and programs.

All documents submitted to the department will be kept confidential. Scholarships are granted based upon funds available at the time of request and adherence to the guidelines listed below. Completion and submission of this application does not guarantee approval.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- The maximum scholarship amount per calendar year is \$200/person or \$400/family.
- Maximum discount per class/program is up to 50% of fees, up to the \$200/person or \$400/family scholarship award maximum.
- **Applications must be submitted two weeks prior to the start of requested class/program.**
- Applications received and approved after the start of the program can only be used toward the following session.
- Applicants will be notified within two weeks of application submittal.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant must be a current Beverly Hills resident.
- Applicant must meet income criteria set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Applicant must submit completed application and supplemental documents listed below.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Completed class registration form.

Completed scholarship application.

Proof of residency: current ID and utility bill.

Proof of income: recent check stub and 1040 Income Tax Form for the last year.

Proof of unemployment/welfare: eligibility letter and dated ID card.

Any other document proving financial hardship.

Please mail or hand-deliver your completed application to:

Beverly Hills Community Services Department
401 South Roxbury Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Attn: Scholarship Program

Residents are encouraged to use the Scholarship Program to broaden their cultural and recreational opportunities for everyone in the family. If you have further questions, please call 310.285.6842.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD _____		
ADDRESS _____	CITY, ZIP _____	
PHONE: HOME _____	MOBILE _____	EMAIL _____

EMPLOYER _____	OCCUPATION _____
ADDRESS _____	CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
SUPERVISOR _____	PHONE _____

MARITAL STATUS:	Single()	Married()	Divorced()	Separated()
IF MARRIED, SPOUSE'S NAME _____				
EMPLOYER _____	OCCUPATION _____			
ADDRESS _____	CITY, STATE, ZIP _____			
PHONE _____				

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	\$
SPOUSE	\$
CHILD SUPPORT	\$
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	\$
ALIMONY	\$
OTHER	\$

TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME	\$
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Total number of people in household _____ Please list below:

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME	AGE (IF UNDER 18)	RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT

Have you or your dependents participated in the scholarship program through the Community Services Department before? If yes, who and when?

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME	DATES

Please list the applicant's name and the program for which they would like to register below:

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME	COURSE NAME AND CODE	FEES
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$

I certify that all statements on this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or incorrect statements shall be sufficient cause for disqualification of request.

Signature _____ Date _____



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

PROOF SUBMITTED: income() residency() completed application()

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AWARDED \$ _____ NOTIFICATION DATE _____

REASON FOR DENIAL _____

STAFF SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Attachment 2

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP INCOME GUIDELINES

The City of Beverly Hills uses the Low Income Guidelines of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a criteria to assist residents of the City with scholarships to participate in programs and activities provided by the Community Services Department.

Household Size	Gross Income/Year 2014
1	\$17,950
2	\$20,500
3	\$23,050
4	\$25,600
5	\$27,650
6	\$29,700
7	\$31,750