

APPROVED
APR 17 2006

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 06-97


DATE April 17, 2006

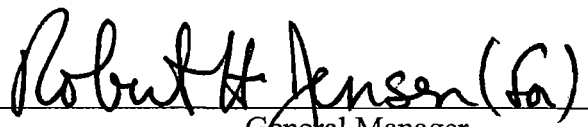
**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 8, 9, 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM LOS ANGELES UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL FOR LICENSED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AT ELIGIBLE SITES

*J. Combs <u></u>	J. Kolb _____
H. Fujita _____	F. Mok _____
S. Huntley _____	K. Regan _____
B. Jensen _____	M. Shull _____


General Manager

Approved 

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the submission of an application to Los Angeles Universal Preschool for the funding of licensed preschool programs at Ralph M. Parsons Preschool, South Park Child Care Center, and Banning Child Care Center; and,
2. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the grant application to the Mayor, City Administrative Officer, City Legislative Analyst, and City Clerk, simultaneously with submission of the grant application to Los Angeles Universal Preschool.

SUMMARY:

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is an independent public benefit corporation, funded by First 5 LA and dedicated to making voluntary high-quality preschool available to every 4-year old child in Los Angeles County. In the 2006 round of funding, LAUP is seeking applications for funding for projects that will increase preschool capacity in 34 selected zip codes that represent the areas of greatest need in Los Angeles County. In each of the 34 zip codes selected, there are at least 500 more 4-year old children than there are licensed child care spaces. In many of these zip codes, the need is for at least 1,000 new spaces.

Activities and social interactions provided in communities through the Department's preschools and Child Care Program are a vital component of the Department's overall recreation services. Three of the Department's Child Care Centers are located within a targeted zip code: Ralph M. Parsons Preschool, South Park Child Care Center, and Banning Child Care Center. Funding will

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allow the Department to offer free or low-cost preschool to families in the areas served by those centers. Many of the families in these areas would benefit from a preschool program, but cannot afford it. For families that would be subsidized by this program, if awarded to the Department, only a one-time, non-refundable "Investment Fee" would be charged, determined on the median family income of the neighborhood and set on a sliding scale to reflect the families' ability to pay. In some cases, the "Investment Fee" for the LAUP preschools funded in this round will either be waived or will never be more than \$400.

Ralph M. Parsons is currently licensed for preschool, and is seeking funding for 30 children (morning and afternoon sessions). Funding is based on the number of eligible 4-year old children enrolled and in attendance, and on the rating of the program following an evaluation by LAUP. The rating is determined by teacher education, environmental rating scale scores, adult to child ratios, and other factors. Allowable expenditures are those ordinary and necessary expenses directly benefiting or resulting from the LAUP preschool program operations including, but not limited to: salaries, benefits, reduction of parent fees, preparation and planning time, parent involvement, participation in professional and community events, and the coordination of social services for children and families.

South Park and Banning Child Care Centers are seeking funds under the "new facilities" provision of the grant. Both centers offer school age child care and are not currently licensed for preschool. As the LAUSD moves toward a traditional school year schedule from the year-round schedule, the need for school age care will be primarily in the after school hours, leaving open spaces at the facilities with full-time staff available. With funding, these two centers can complete the necessary renovations needed to be licensed for preschool. A preschool program would offer an additional service to the community and allow for the full utilization of the facilities. South Park is seeking funding for 30 children (a morning and an afternoon session of 15 children each). Banning is seeking funding for 20 children (one morning session). Allowable expenses include all of the improvements necessary to renovate a facility in order to meet Community Care Licensing standards. Following the renovation, the LAUP funding will also provide for the operation of the preschool program based on the number of children served and the quality rating.

LAUP will determine the awarding of four-month Provisional Contracts to successful providers. If selected for funding, the Department will seek Mayor and Council approval before entering into the contract. During the four-month period, LAUP will work with recipients to prepare them for site visits to determine the rating for which funding is calculated. Providers that receive successful ratings will transition to one-year LAUP Provider Contracts, which are renewable at the end of the one-year period. The Department expects to receive notification in April, 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

This grant does not require a match and results in no fiscal impact to the General Fund. The grant would provide for the preschool program to be offered to patrons for free or low-cost.

Prepared by Debby Rolland, Superintendent, West Region.