

COUNCIL ACTION ITEM

2021 Request for Summer Learning Program Proposals Application

November 2020

Background Information (*brief history of the situation*): For more than ten years, CSC has released a competitive Summer Program Funding application to increase the number of summer program opportunities for children and families. The Summer Program Funding application is typically released in December and completed applications are due in February with Council decision in March. The early release of the application allows programs to adequately plan and hire for summer. Last year, CSC funded 11 additional summer programs/expansions serving over 300 individual youth and families in the amount of \$360,695 designated for summer including additional funds for COVID-19 Relief Efforts Funding.

Current Situation (*why it is being brought to Council now*): In the 2020-21 budget, \$350,000 has been allocated for 2021 Summer Program funding. Because all of our current funded programs have included summer activities in their year round budget including the current expansion in funding to the Lindsay School of the Arts, the \$350,000 in the 2021 Summer Program line item is designated for additional summer opportunities for children.

The 2021 Summer Learning Program Funding will again focus on funding programs that place an emphasis on mitigating summer learning loss. Summer learning programs have the potential to help children and youth improve their academic performance. This is especially true of children from low-income families who might not otherwise have access to educational resources throughout the summer months and for low-achieving students who require additional time to master academic material. While the research indicates that learning loss varies by grade level and student characteristics, the average loss equates to approximately one month of instruction and this loss may be cumulative over time.

Aligned with the research, Children’s Services Council will give priority to those programs that place an emphasis on mitigating summer learning loss through educational (math and reading) and physical/recreational attractor activities, as well as career exploration and job readiness for teens, and that operate 5 days per week for at least 8 weeks. Also, the narrative asks for details on the tele-learning options, field trips to be offered, background screening policies, nutritional components, and narrative explanation & calculation for the amounts requested of CSC in support of their summer program. Additionally, agencies will be asked to explain their summer fee structure for families (if any) and provide detail on how CSC funding will help make their proposed summer learning programs affordable for all families. The 2021 summer application will be available online through the grants management system and follow similar format to last year. *Outline attached.*

The application will be made available on the CSCSLC grants management system and will be advertised in the CSC newsletter, Facebook, newsletter distribution list and the News/Tribune. The timetable for the application process is as follows:

December 2, 2020.....Release of Request for Proposals

January 8, 2021Bidders' Conference for interested agencies
February 5, 2021.....Proposal deadline by Noon
March 11, 2021 Funding Recommendations and Council Funding Decision
April 15, 2021Contracts and Budgets for Approved Proposals

Action (*requested or required of Council*): The Council is being asked to approve the 2021 Summer Learning Program Funding application and process.

CSC Team Recommendation:

STRENGTHS:

- Outlined strategy aligns with Strategic Direction
- Provides summer learning opportunities to mitigate summer learning loss

CONCERNS:

- none

CSC Team recommends the approval of the 2021 Summer Learning Program Funding application.

SB, TA, JD 11/2/20

2021 Summer Learning Program Proposal

OVERVIEW

The mission of the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County is to improve the quality of life for all children in St. Lucie County. In order to achieve its mission, Children's Services Council will advocate for children by developing resources and planning, coordinating and funding services for children in a fiscally responsible manner with family, community, government and service providers.

PURPOSE

Summer learning programs have the potential to help children and youth improve their academic performance. This is especially true of children from low-income families who might not otherwise have access to educational resources throughout the summer months and for low-achieving students who require additional time to master academic material. While the research indicates that learning loss varies by grade level and student characteristics, the average loss equates to approximately one month of instruction and this loss may be cumulative over time.

Because many children lose learning over the summer and some children need more time to master content, participation in summer learning programs should mitigate learning loss and have the potential to produce achievement gains.

Listed below are characteristics of effective summer learning programs. The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County will give priority to those programs which demonstrate ability to implement these standards:

- Smaller child ratios – at most 20 children per staff member
- Differentiated Instruction – individualized instruction and support for children yield positive outcomes
- High-Quality Instruction – integrate certified teachers into program or provide professional development and coaching for existing staff to improve instruction in summer learning programs
- Blend academic learning with engaging activities – provide children with opportunities for experiential learning, community service, and skill building.
- Comprehensive Programming – provide children with engaging and enriching learning opportunities that help all children learn new material and revisit previously learned material
- Encouraging & Supporting High Attendance Rates – maximize attendance by addressing key factors impacting attendance: transportation, full day of programming, engaging activities blended with academic content
- Appropriate Duration of Program- the longer children engage during the summer, the more likely they are to have positive achievement outcomes the next year. (Minimum 8 weeks: 5 days/week, 8 hours/day)

- Parental Involvement – increased buy-in from parents leads to increased attendance and greater incorporation of learning strategies into the home
- Effective Evaluations – ensures programs continuously and successfully integrate key elements of effective summer programs and can be important tool Boards can use in developing quality summer learning programs.

For programs working with elementary school-aged populations, literacy instruction is recommended as part of learning components. For those programs working with teenagers, in addition to learning components, career exploration and/or job readiness skills are encouraged.

The Summer Learning Program Proposal will follow the timetable below:

Timeline:

December 2, 2020.....Release of Request for Proposals
 January 8, 2020Bidders’ Conference for interested agencies
 February 5, 2021.....Proposal deadline by Noon
 March 11, 2021 Funding Recommendations and Council Funding Decision
 May 10, 2021Contracts and Budgets for Approved Proposals

SUMMER RFP OUTLINE

Organization Overview

- Name of Organization
- Executive Director
- Agency Address
- Telephone
- Fax
- Email

Program Summary

- Program Name
- Program Director
- Program Primary Address
- Program Start and End Dates
- Program Days/Hours of Operation
- Amount Requested from Funder for FY 20-21
- Budget Line Items Narrative and Calculation for amount Requested from CSC
- Total Proposed Program Budget for 2020

Questions:

Program Services

- Provide a brief summary of the summer learning program and include how program will impact summer learning loss.
- Please detail the need for the program/service in their area.

- Please detail the educational components and structure, including student assessment and curricula being utilized, and/or career exploration and job readiness skill development.
- Please detail the physical/recreational activities that will attract participants and encourage high attendance rates. Include frequency and duration of activities.
- Please detail the nutritional component of the program and whether program anticipates participation in the Summer Food Program.
- Please detail any planned field trips including plan for adequate insurance coverage, use of safe transportation, and appropriately licensed and trained drivers.
- Please detail the proposed staffing pattern for summer learning program and include qualifications required for all staff.
- Staff to child ratio.
- Please detail the background screening procedure for employees and volunteers (at a minimum must comply with Level 2 screening standards as outlines in [Florida Statutes 435.04](#)).
- Please describe program's plans for identifying, recruiting, retaining, and following up (tracking) the target population.
- Please tell us you are not charging families! If you are, please provide any fee structure required for participation. What fees are charged, if any, including registration per child? If using a sliding scale, be specific in detailing the criteria and the amount to be paid by families for their child's enrollment and any provisions for sibling groups or families unable to pay.

Population to be Served

- Graph of target population

Educational Outcomes/Activities Matrix: will be required to submit Summer Outcome Report (similar to quarterly report but with prescribed educational/physical fitness/health outcomes)

- Outcomes Statement
- Program completes following sections: Activities, frequency, responsible parties, expected outcomes, data sources, time of measurement, Community Indicator.

Program and Agency Budget

- Total Budget (including other funding sources and in-kind), Program Budget, Amounts Requested from CSC, Program Expense Narrative and Calculations for line item amounts requested from CSC.