

Parks and Recreation Department Financial Assistance Program

Health and Human Services Council Committee Meeting
November 2, 2015

Presented by
Patrick Corona, Division Manager
Parks and Recreation Department



The need for Financial Assistance
remains as an identified barrier to
Youth Program participation.

FY 2014 City of Austin actions to address the identified need

Parks and Recreation Department seeks mid-year approval and receives \$200,000 in fee waivers for youth programs.

- PARD developed an application process utilizing Federal Income Poverty Level information.
- There were 553 youth in 315 households that applied.
- 500 youth were awarded up to \$400 in fee waivers.
- Only \$79,730.02 was utilized.

FY 2015 City of Austin actions to address the identified need

- For FY 2015 the Parks and Recreation Department comprehensively analyzes fee structure and proposes 50% discount for youth participants who financially qualify.
- Austin City Council approves discount through FY2015 standard budget approval process.
- Approximately 1,043 households have applied for this opportunity representing approximately 1,953 youth.
- FY 2015 discounted fees equals \$201,905.08

FY 2016 City of Austin actions to address the identified need

- Continuation of the 50% youth program fee discount.
- Effective January 2, 2016 – Implementation of the Scott Johnson Scholarship
- Scott Johnson Scholarship
 - Partnership with Austin Energy and advocate Scott Johnson
 - Provides an additional 25% of registration fee assistance
 - Families will have a 25% fee obligation
 - Available to those families who qualify for the Free Lunch Program

Qualifications for Assistance

- Pertains to Youth Programs Only
- Must be a resident of the City of Austin
- Application Process (English and Spanish forms)
- Awards based on demonstrated Financial Need
 - Eligibility for Free or Reduced Lunch Program or
 - Completion of a Attestation Statement

Examples of Youth Programs

- After School Programs
- Summer Day Camp Programs
- Youth Sports Leagues
- Swim Lessons
- Austin Nature and Science Center Youth Programs
- PARD Cultural Arts Youth Programs



Questions