

**CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 23, 2019

**TO:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**THROUGH:** Dr. Jeremy Earle, Assistant City Manager/CRA Executive Director 

**FROM:** Beverly A. Sanders-Mayweather, Director, Human Services Department 

**SUBJECT:** Approval to Operate a Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program at the Austin Hepburn Center

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The Human Services Department is seeking your approval to implement the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program at the Austin Hepburn Center, Human Services Department. We are proposing to serve 11 students are part of a Pilot Project during the upcoming school year and summer, pending full implementation. Currently, the Afterschool Tutorial Enrichment Program (ASP) has approximately 150 students enrolled in the Afterschool Program. The Center has capacity for up to 210 students; seven (7) classrooms and the Mary G. Washington Hall. Many of the ASP families have multiple school-aged children who require supervision while their parents work. The Center currently services students from Kindergarten through Middle School, but there is a gap for families with younger children.

Based on the Early Learning Coalition (ELC), US Census Bureau's 2017 American Community Survey, there were approximately 2,369 children under the age of five living in Hallandale Beach. Assuming an even distribution of ages 1-4, approximately 25% of that number or 592 children would be age 4 years old and eligible for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK). Currently, there are 505 children who reside in Hallandale Beach enrolled in VPK program. Therefore, there is an opportunity to serve families that are eligible for the program, but not currently enrolled.

Florida's VPK is free to all 4 and 5 year olds. The ELC serves as the state agency for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) which is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These funds provide child care services for low-income family members who work, train for work, attend school or whose children need to receive protective services. VPK gives pre-kindergarten children a jumpstart by preparing them for school, thus enhancing their pre-reading, math, language and social skills development. The only requirement for VPK is that the child must be 4 and 5 years old and reside in Florida.

There are three (3) types of VPK Programming:

1. School-year programs – This includes 540 hours (9-months) of instructional time beginning in August and ending in June.
2. Summer Programs – Consists of 300 hours (10-weeks) of instructional time beginning as early as May 1 through August.
3. Specialized Instruction Program – This is the inclusion model which serves students who have a disability as evidenced by an Individual Educational Plan (IEP)

The Human Services Department is proposing to offer both school-year and summer beginning in August 2019. Becoming a VPK Provider is relative straightforward because the Human Services Department has already overcome the major obstacle of being a licensed Child Care Facility. The Human Services Department has capacity to offer the program without adding additional staff because we already have a Credentialed VPK Instructor (Lead Teacher) as well as a VPK Aide/Assistant. Ms. Carter, the Youth Services Supervisor is a credentialed Child Care Director, and has worked diligently to bring the City's afterschool and summer program at the Hepburn Center into full compliance with Child Care Licensure. Her emphasis has been on the safety and well-being of the students. She is the architect of this initiative as she is VPK Endorsed on her Director's Credential. She served as the Compliance Monitor over both the School Board of Broward County's Head Start and VPK Program serving more than 135 sites. Once licensed as a Child Care Facility, the process is to simply complete the attached Provider Service Agreement Information Form to expand the population serve.

Costs associated with customizing the classroom to accommodate VPK student is nominal. We anticipate start-up costs in the range of \$4,000 which includes: student interest areas or center, e.g., dramatic play, language, science, etc. It is anticipated that we would leverage these dollars from the Human Services Department General Fund under the specialized supplies line items. The return on the \$4,000 in startup costs will be immediate, as the reimbursement for each child is \$2,437 for the school year and \$2,080 per child for the summer. Anticipated revenue expected to be approximately \$53,614. See chart below:

School Year	Summer
The child will attend in the afternoon	The child will only come during the summer.
From August until June	From June until August
Average of 11 students in the class	Average of 11 students in the class
Earnings of \$26,807 per year	Earning in 3 months \$23,474
Payments are made monthly Avg of \$2437 a month	Payments are made monthly Avg of \$8933 a month

Reviewed:

*JEREMY EARLE for City Manager Chavarria*



Greg Chavarria, City Manager

Date

5-29-19

Approved

Denied

Hold for Discussion

Comments:

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Attachments