



Children & Families
Commission of Orange County

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Agenda Item No. 8
July 1, 2009 Meeting

CLERK OF THE BOARD
ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: June 23, 2009

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Proposed Nonprofit Center at Orange County Great Park

SUMMARY:

The Orange County Great Park and City of Irvine are completing a feasibility study for the proposed nonprofit center (known as the Center for Community Organizations) to be located in the Great Park. In July 2008, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County approved an agreement with the City of Irvine to complete the feasibility analysis, which began in May 2009. To date, the feasibility analysis includes a mission statement that the Center for Community Organizations will provide an innovative, regional, multi-tenant nonprofit center for public services, public convenings, and shared administrative offices to increase Orange County's nonprofit and public organizations' capacity to serve the public, while reducing costs and increasing impact. Goals and objectives for the feasibility study guide the evaluation and selection of a design and suitable location for the Center for Community Organizations. The design concept, and preliminary business plan will lead to viable options for a permanent facility for nonprofit and public organizations and programs. The feasibility study is scheduled for completion in September 2009.

Interim Facility Opportunity

During the process of planning for the permanent Center for Community Organizations it has become increasingly important to expand the services now available on-site at the Great Park, especially in light of worsening economic conditions. The Great Park staff is in the process of refining plans to place an interim modular facility near the main entrance to the park. This is a key opportunity for the Commission as it also presents an opportunity to target much needed services to the underserved communities in the city of Lake Forest.

Commission staff requests approval to begin planning and implementation in partnership with the Great Park Corporation and the city of Irvine and set-aside funds for program services and an interim modular facility. The interim modular facility will provide direct services to the public at the Great Park and is anticipated to provide services similar to a Family Resource Center and or a Learning Link Model program. In addition to the services offered as part of the Family Resource Center, there will also be space for mobile medical and dental services.

Working with existing grantees to identify an organization that has the background and expertise to enter in an agreement with the Commission to purchase or lease a modular unit facility and provide the program services described above is recommended. It is anticipated that initial start up cost to purchase or lease the modular unit will be \$150,000 and that annual operating cost of

program services will be \$85,000. Commission funding and support will be limited to facility space and program services for children 0 - 5 and their families. Additional services and facility space to serve a broader population requires additional funding partners. More importantly, this interim modular facility would provide an opportunity to consolidate existing school readiness programs serving the community and provide a more sustainable model. Staff will work with the Irvine Unified School District, Families Forward, and other service providers and return in September 2009 with a project plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The proposed set aside has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Strategic Plan, and the recommended actions are designed to further the Ready to Learn/Quality Services goals, among others. Funding for this item is included in the FY 2009/2010 budget under Ready to Learn.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTION:

July 2008 – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with City of Irvine for Great Park Center for Community Organizations Feasibility Study

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Set aside \$235,000 for the purchase or lease of a modular unit to operate as an interim facility and to provide program services at the Center for Community Organizations in the Great Park and return in September 2009 with a completed project plan and funding Agreement.

Contact: Kim Goll