



MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 25-23, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a Grant from the Homer Foundation Youth Advisory Committee in the Amount of \$3,500 for Community Recreation Activities. City Manager/Recreation Manager

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
Thru: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
Date: January 30, 2025
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

Background

The Homer Foundation Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) has recommended and proposed the concept of providing funding for vouchers for City of Homer Community Recreation programs, activities and special events for youth. This was a result of the YAC's effort to ensure affordability and accessibility for youth programs as a perceived community need.

The City of Homer Community Recreation Program currently does not charge fees for youth for ongoing drop in recreational programs that take place at the local schools such as basketball, volleyball and soccer. However, there are required participation fees for youth for contracted instructor led classes such as Intro to Spanish, dance classes or silversmithing that cover the instructor and Community Recreation fees regardless of its location. Community Recreation also charges youth for drop in programs and instructional classes that take place at the city owned HERC facility such as ballet, pickleball and karate.

This new funding source would be used to cover the instructor fees, community recreation fees, youth punch cards and/or yearlong memberships for drop in programs. The amount of funds per youth would be determined on a case by case basis depending on family needs, request and funds available along with consultation with Community Recreation instructors/volunteers, school staff and other community partners. This also aligns with a future goal of establishing a scholarship fund to assist with the creation of formal operational plan for a possible future community recreation facility.

Recommendation:

Accept the \$3,500 grant from Homer Foundation YAC for youth vouchers.

Attachments:

Draft Community Recreation Voucher Application
Draft Youth Voucher Program Guidelines



City of Homer Community Rec Youth Voucher Application Form

All fields must be completed before turning in your application. Please read all the instructions on the back of this application prior to filling out the form.

Youth, up to 18 years of age and/or through high school, unless the program is intended for disabled youth, in which case the program may serve youth no older than 20 years of age. The maximum funding level per child is \$100 per fiscal year (July 1- June 30) for Community Recreation related activities (ie: class fees, punch card).

Incomplete forms will be returned.

Name of Child:	Date of birth:	Age:	Gender:
Parent/ Guardian name:	Email:	Phone #:	
Mailing address:			
Name of Program/Activity/Need			Total Cost:
Program Beginning Date		Program Ending Date	
Instructor to receive Funding:			
Instructor Contact Person:		Instructor Phone#:	
Instructor Mailing Address		Instructor Email:	
Have you applied for funding from this program before? If so, when and how much did you receive?			

By my signature below, I affirm that the information provided herein is complete, true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Office Use Only

Date application was received:	Amount Eligible for:
Instructor Approval Yes No	Amount Funded:
Date Parent/Guardian Contacted	Date Check request submitted:

The **Youth Voucher Program** is designed to provide financial assistance (maximum \$100 per child, per fiscal year) to youth who may not otherwise be able to participate in youth activities. All forms must be turned into Community Recreation during the registration period of the program or activity. Forms turned in after the program is over, or more than 1 week prior to registration, will not be processed and will be returned. The Youth Voucher program is for City of Homer Community Recreation programs, classes, special events, memberships and contracted instructor fees. Funds are limited and this program may cease if all funds are utilized.

Special Note: If for any reason your child does not use the scholarship for the requested activity, please notify Community Recreation as soon as possible. If the voucher has not been used within 90 days, the voucher amount will be returned to the donation/voucher fund. You may reapply for another voucher.

Eligibility: Youth, up to 18 years of age and/or through high school, unless the program is intended for disabled youth, in which case the program may serve youth no older than 20 years of age. The maximum funding level per child is \$100 per fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

Selection: The awarding of vouchers is based on the honor system with the intent to assist youth/families with accessing programs that would otherwise not be affordable. This will be a “first come, first serve” basis.

Registration: Completing a voucher form DOES NOT register a child for the program. Please complete the registration form separately.

Process: Complete the Youth Voucher/Scholarship application form as instructed on the reverse side. Only 1 child and 1 activity per form.

Notification: You will be notified when the application is approved.

Questions: If you have questions about the voucher application or process, call 907-235-6090. Applications can be dropped off with a staff member (please make arrangements to meet) or can be emailed directly to communityrecreation@ci.homer.ak.us.