



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
www.LCFPD.org

Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: June 6, 2016

TO: Craig Taylor, Chair
Education, Cultural Resources and Public Affairs Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair
Finance and Administrative Committee

FROM: Nan Buckardt, Education Director

RECOMMENDATION Approve 2016-2017 Gateways Grants Program

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Communication, Education, and Outreach

FINANCIAL DATA: The Annual Fee Ordinance authorizes waiver of program fees for Gateways Grants recipients and the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget includes estimated grant revenues and expenditures for the Gateways program. The program requires \$6,000 in private donations to fund the 48 \$125 bus transportation reimbursements. Funding for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Gateways Grant program was provided by Discover. All potential revenues and expenditures are included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget. Grant reimbursements will be charged to 64304000-709000.

BACKGROUND: The Gateways Grants program provides school districts with high percentages of low-income students with fee waivers for Forest Preserve school field trip programs and a partial reimbursement to the school districts for bus transportation costs. The bus transportation reimbursement in this recommendation is \$125 per grant, an increase of \$25 per grant compared to last year's program. The Gateways Grant Program for the 2016-2017 school year will offer 48, each grant can be used for environmental or history education field trips.

Additionally, the Gateways Grants provide a reduction to in-school program fees. Presently, the first program costs \$60; any additional programs at the same school in same day are priced at \$20 instead of the normal rate of \$40. It is proposed to reduce the first program price to \$50 and continue to offer additional programs at \$20 each. This reduction is meant to encourage schools to take advantage of in-school history programs while the Museum is closed.

Participation in this program is based on the low-income school population figures for 2015-2016 from the Illinois State Board of Education. Staff recommends that school districts having greater than 40% low-income elementary students be eligible to participate in the Gateways Grant Program.

Oak Terrace, in Highwood, has traditionally received grants as part of this program because of the very high percentage of low-income students enrolled in that school. In the 2015-2016 school year, 66.5% of the students were classified as low-income.

The table below gives a breakdown of percent low-income and the recommendation for distribution of Gateways Grants for the coming year's program. The list of school districts remains the same as last year.

Town	School District	% Low Income	Grants
Zion	6	87	5
North Chicago	187	79	6
Gavin	37	62	2
Waukegan	60	58	18
Diamond Lake	76	56	2
Fox Lake	114	53	2
Round Lake	116	48	8
Beach Park	3	42	4
Grass Lake	36	41	1

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Committee approval is required in accordance with District Policy.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Education Managers, Chief Development Officer, Finance Director, Chief Operations Officer.

PRESENTER: Nan Buckardt

APPROVED:

EDUCATION, CULTURAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes:____ Nays:____

Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays:____

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes:____ Nays:____

Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays:____