



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: June 26, 2017
TO: Craig Taylor, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: Nan Buckardt
Director of Education

RECOMMENDATION: Approve 2017-2018 *Gateways Grant 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 2017-2018 Budget includes estimated grant revenues and expenditures for the program. The program requires \$6,000 in private donations to fund the forty-eight (48) \$125 bus transportation reimbursements. All potential revenues and expenditures are included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget. Grant-reimbursable expenses will be charged to 64304000-709000.

BACKGROUND: The *Gateways Grant Program* provides school districts with high percentages of low-income students with fee waivers for Forest Preserve District school field trip programs and a partial reimbursement to the school districts for bus transportation costs. The bus transportation reimbursement is \$125 per grant. The *Gateways Grant Program* for the 2017-2018 school year will offer 48 grants; each grant can be used for any school field trip listed on our website.

Additionally, *Gateways Grants* provide a reduction to in-school program fees. The first program costs \$50; any additional programs at the same school in the same day are priced at \$20 instead of the standard rate of \$40.

Participation in this program is based on the low-income school population figures for 2016-2017 as determined by 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*. After February 1, 2018, any unclaimed grant will be available to any school district in the program.

Additionally, 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 2016-2017 school year, 66 % of the students were classified as low-income. They will be eligible for one grant.

The table below gives a breakdown of low-income percentages and the recommendation for distribution of *Gateways Grants* for the coming year's program. The recommended number of allotted grants is based on comparing elementary student population for each recommended school district. The largest school districts receive the largest allotment of grants.

Town	School District	% Low Income	Number of Grants Allotted
North Chicago	187	89	5
Zion	6	86	5
Waukegan	60	73	20
Round Lake	116	68	9
Diamond Lake	76	62	2
Gavin	37	60	2
Fox Lake	114	57	1
Beach Park	3	51	4

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Education Managers, Finance Director, Corporate Counsel.

APPROVED:

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

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

Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____