

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

LeAnn Williams, Director, Recreation
Victoria Shaw, Sr FP&A Manager, Community Services

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 140, 2024, Making Supplemental Appropriations from the State of Colorado for the Universal Pre-School Program at the Northside Aztlan Community Center.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to consider an appropriation of unanticipated revenue of \$30,469 from the State of Colorado in 2024 to help fund the Universal Pre-school (UPK) program at the Northside Aztlan Community Center through the Recreation Fund.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The State of Colorado passed a Universal Pre-School (UPK) program in 2022 under House Bill 22-1295 to offer voluntary, high quality universal preschool to every Colorado child in the year before kindergarten. Families who register are eligible for up to 15 hours per week of free preschool under UPK, with the providers receiving payment directly from the State.

The City of Fort Collins' Recreation department has begun participating in UPK as a care provider for the 2024/2025 school year for childcare services provided at Northside Atzlan Community Center. This activity was not originally budgeted for in 2024 since the program parameters were not set when the budget was adopted.

Accordingly, the City has begun to receive unanticipated revenue from the State of Colorado for providing Universal Pre-school services to the Community. In August 2024, the City received \$6,094 in support of 10 students and now anticipates receiving an additional \$24,375 through the end of the year, for total 2024 estimated revenue of \$30,469. This appropriation will allow the Recreation Department to utilize the available 2024 State of Colorado funding of \$30,469 to provide UPK at the Northside Aztlan Community Center.

Expanded levels of funding and staffing for the UPK program are recommended in the 2025 – 2026 City Manager's Recommended Budget under Offer 46.5: 3.0 FTE Universal Preschool. If adopted, that offer would expand the capacity and offerings beyond the scope of this appropriation in the next 2025/2026 school year. Funding this appropriation does not commit any UPK offerings beyond the 2024/2025 school year.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

If adopted, this Ordinance will appropriate the unanticipated 2024 revenue projected from the State of Colorado of \$30,469 in 2024 to fund the Universal Pre-school (UPK) program at the Northside Aztlan Community Center in the Recreation Fund.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration