



## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **REQUEST FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS**

Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department is requesting \$50,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to facilitate a **“Grab and Go Feeding Program”** (snacks, lunches and after-school meals) for Caddo Parish youth, ages 4-17 who participate in 2022 recreation/wellness, athletic and nature education programs. This program was funded in 2021 through a grant award by National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), serving 8,160 Caddo Parish youth. This grant will not be available for the 2022 calendar year.

If approved, the “Grab and Go Feeding Program” will be a continued "game changer" in how Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation deliver quality programs and services to our Caddo Parish youth. It was evident through last year’s feeding program, that there is a vital need in Caddo Parish to provide healthy snacks and meals to our youth program participants. Many of our youth participants and respective parents expressed their sincere appreciation of Caddo Parish and highly recommended that our parks department provide this feeding program model and service annually.

Participating Caddo Parish youth will not only receive healthy grab and go snacks, lunches and after-school meals, they will also be able to participate in invaluable recreational activities, health and wellness activities, crime prevention programs, nature education programs and sport camps/clinics.

Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department staff, certified instructors and volunteer coaches continue to emphasize how last year’s feeding program made a significant impact in Caddo Parish. Many youth attended our recreational and athletic programs without having an adequate breakfast, snack or lunch throughout the day. Furthermore, when snacks, lunch or meals were served at our programs, some youth did not eat their entire snack, lunch or meal; but saved their food for later-because many times there was no food at their respective homes and our provided food would be there last meal for the day.

#### **Local/State Food Insecurity Statistics:**

- According to Center for Planning Excellence, over 33% of Shreveport households are now experiencing food insecurity. The national rate is 16%.
- According to Urban Footprint, communities of color are at a significantly high risk of becoming food insecure. In Louisiana, 23% of Black households are food insufficient compared with 7% of white households.

**ARPA Eligible:**

Proposed “Grab and Go Feeding Program” will place emphasis on the following:

- Public Health
- Promoting healthy childhood/youth environments
- Promoting outdoor learning and play, beyond the school day (Out-of-School Time)
- Promoting outdoor recreation and socialization to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

**(Budget Breakdown)**

**Food:**

\$35,000 (food/consumables)

**Equipment/PPE:**

\$5,000 (Gloves, masks, hand sanitizer stations, cleaning/disinfectant supplies, trash receptacles, drink coolers, food bags, tables, tents, serving utensils, warmers, etc.)

**Marketing/Promotions of Feeding Program (year-round):**

\$10,000 (radio buys, social media campaign ads, flyers, banners/signage, rack cards, etc.)

**Total Amount Requesting:**

**\$50,000.00**

**2022 Youth Programs Offered**

**(Athletics, Health and Wellness)**

Sport camps/clinics, football, basketball, baseball, Jiu-Jitsu, soccer, lacrosse, softball, track and field, weightlifting, fitness training and e-sports league.

**Estimated # of Participants**

**5,000**

**(Recreation / Education)**

Crime prevention workshops, after-school and related community outreach programs via churches and/or youth non-profit organizations.

**6,000**

**(Nature Education)**

Wild Child Summer Camps (6 sessions), Get Hooked on Fishing events, canoeing, archery activities park clean-ups and community garden activities.

**4,000**

**Estimated Number of Program Participants to be Served in 2022: 15,000**

**Estimated Number of Meals to be Served in 2022: 17,000 – 18,000**

**Compliance:**

Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation staff will comply with all required reporting guidelines.

**Program/Activity Feeding Sites:**

- Caddo Parks
- Caddo Schools
- Caddo Common Park
- Area Churches
- Lee Hedges Stadium
- Independence Stadium
- Boys and Girls Club
- Centenary College (Athletic Venues)
- Princess Park
- Holy Angels
- Town of Greenwood
- Town of Mooringsport
- Town of Vivian

**Food Vendors Used:**

- Dillas Quesadilla
- Jason's Deli
- Pizza Hut
- Raising Cane's
- Sam's Club
- Subway
- Whataburger

**Revised: 2-11-22**