



March 15, 2022

Kacy Allen-Bryant, Commissioner
Department of Social Services
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
200 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Commissioner Allen-Bryant,

Last year, Community Action Council (the Council) was awarded funding through the Extended Social Resources program for its Pinnacle Youth Program (PYP). PYP was created to engage 20-25 middle school-age youth in leadership development and service-learning in and around the under-resourced Winburn neighborhood. PYP's program design seeks to equip students in grades 5-7 with greater self-esteem, academic success, leadership ability, feelings of social belonging, and service-mindedness through skill-development and service-based programming. This program was designed to operate in two phases: an interactive summer camp in partnership with Consolidated Baptist Church and an afterschool initiative during the 2021-2022 school year in collaboration with Winburn Middle School.

Update on PYP's Summer Camp

During Summer 2021, 40 area youth, or 125 percent of the Council's initial target, participated in a seven-week summer youth program hosted at Consolidated Baptist Church. Youth participated in service-learning projects, took part in urban gardening at the Council's Winburn Community Garden, gained crucial financial literacy skills, learned about healthy meal preparation, engaged in fun physical activities, and learned new methods of artistic expression.

Update of PYP's Afterschool Program

At the time we submitted our grant application, it appeared as though statewide restrictions and Fayette County Public Schools protocols were on the road to being lifted. Unfortunately, due to some late-year surges in two variants of COVID-19, restrictions remained in place for visitors within the district's facilities for the first three quarters of the school year. As a result, the Council has been unable to implement the afterschool portion of the PYP initiative.

Grant Recipient Request

Although last night's easing of mask and visitor guidelines by Fayette County Public Schools is an optimistic signal that school operations are returning to what they were before the pandemic, the Council will not have sufficient time in the current school year to offer the afterschool portion of PYP.

The Council is requesting to receive and carry forward the balance of funding for this project through June 30, 2023. The additional year will allow the Council the opportunity to implement the school-based portion of its initiative as originally proposed.

I appreciate your consideration of the request. If you would like any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact; my email is melissa.tibbs@commaction.org.

Thank you for your partnership,

Melissa Tibbs

Melissa Tibbs, M.Ed., CCAP, NCRT
Director, Office of Sustainability

CC: Theresa Maynard