
Policy: Financial Aid

Adopted by Board of Park Commissioners: October 2022

Aligned with the BPRYCS Department core value; commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, staff strive to ensure every resident has access to high-quality parks and services regardless of socio-economic status. To ensure BPRYCS meets its vision of impacting the lives of all Bristol residents, the department administers a comprehensive financial aid program. The program is administered by the Youth and Community Services Supervisor who reviews applications, qualifies families through federal approved guidelines, disburses scholarship and communicates with families and serve providers.

The main financial aid program of the BPRYCS is the Scholarship Fund through Youth and Community Services Project Aware Program approved annually by the Youth Commission. The Scholarship Fund has been established to aid children living in high risk situations and in need of social, emotional and recreational programming in order to thrive. Funds are available to children who struggle to cope with neurological, mental health or cognitive challenges, physical disabilities, severe family distress, trauma and /or complicated grief and loss issues. Scholarships shall go towards a program of the child's choice that will enhance their positive social and emotional development and physical well-being. Types of programs may range from music lessons, to swim classes, basketball clinics, self-defense training, performing arts programs, Boys and Girls club membership or to a summer camp. Scholarship funds may also cover costs of supplies needed to participate in a program, such as, a scout uniform, art supplies, or special equipment for a sporting activity.

Eligibility Factors:

1. Financial hardship based on the families current income
2. A commitment from the family to work toward resolving difficulties and nurturing the healthy development of the child.
3. The program or services for which funds are being requested will assist the child in developing his or her skills as part of an overall service plan.

Children are referred to the scholarship program by professional staff working with the child, such as a social worker, parent aide, school psychologist, visiting nurse or therapist or parent. Awards may range from \$10.00 to \$150.00 per child per year. Awards will be paid directly to the vendor. The referring agent must receive permission from the parent for Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services to contact the vendor to make arrangements and obtain an invoice with documentation of attendance.