

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution appropriating funds for the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program Summer Food Service Program - \$40,000 (1 of 2 readings)
Staff Contact(s):	Annie Sechrist, Management Specialist II
Presenter:	Annie Sechrist, Management Specialist II
Date of Proposed Action:	July 20, 2026

Issue

The Parks and Recreation Department has been approved to receive up to \$40,000 in reimbursement funding through the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program to provide free breakfast and lunch to children attending City summer camp programs and free dinner to youth participating in programming at community housing centers. City Council action is required to appropriate the funds so the City can administer the Summer Food Service Program and receive reimbursement for eligible meal expenses. Without appropriation of these funds, the Department would be unable to provide these meal services, impacting access to nutritious food for many children who rely on free or reduced-price meals during the school year.

Background / Rule

The City of Charlottesville, through the Parks and Recreation Department, has received approval for reimbursement of up to \$40,000 from the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program to provide free breakfast and lunch to children attending summer camp programs, and dinner to our community housing centers.

Analysis

Charlottesville Parks and Recreation will operate three Summer Camp programs and two community housing centers (Site of Promise Site serving the Westhaven neighborhood (10th Street Warehouse with City of Promise) and Greenstone on 5th) this summer. The camps serve children aged six through twelve for a total of six weeks (June 15, 2026 to July 31, 2026). The housing sites serve children in Pre K-12th grades, for six weeks during the summer, June 15, 2026 to July 31, 2026. Between the camp and community housing centers, various activities are planned from 9:00am-7:00pm, Monday through Friday.

The reimbursement will cover the costs of nutritious meals at these locations, which also have an educational/enrichment component. The Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program provides a free, nutritious breakfast and lunch for these children, and the community housing centers will provide a free, nutritious dinner. Most of the children served receive free or reduced meals during the school year. The Parks & Recreation Camp has around 1,000 enrollees this summer.

The \$40,000 appropriation covers the cost of the food and administration of the summer food service program. The breakfast, lunches, and dinners are purchased through the City of Charlottesville School Food Service. The Parks and Recreation Department pays the bills to the City of Charlottesville Food Service and is then reimbursed by the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Programs.

Financial Impact

This has no impact on the General Fund as there is no local match required. The funds will be expensed and reimbursed to a Grants Fund.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval and appropriation of funds.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Attachments

1. 2026.06.02 RESOLUTION-SNAP