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Harris County, CASE for Kids partner to provide funding for youth summer programs

May 4, 2021 — Harris County and the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids), a division of Harris County Department of Education, have partnered to create the first-ever County Connections Youth Summer Initiative, a \$625,000 grant from Harris County that will provide county nonprofits with funding for youth summer enrichment programs.

The grants provide opportunities for area nonprofits to supply comprehensive or short-term programs and camps, which may be hosted in-person or virtually from various locations, including schools, community centers, apartment complexes and churches.

“Summer is a critical time for children to grow and develop, and I am proud that Harris County is investing in providing quality, enriching summer programming for our children,” said Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis. “We are excited to see nonprofits come forward with their proposals to serve Harris County families, especially those that help fill the gap in traditionally underserved, low-income areas.”

The County Connections Youth Summer Initiative infuses funding ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 to nonprofits for programming from June 14 to Aug. 15. Samples of services range from academic programming and sports activities to hobby exploration and college readiness initiatives. Funding will assist approximately 1,700-2,000 families of children in elementary through high school.

The application deadline is May 10 at 2 p.m. To access the request for proposal, go to hcde-texas.org/afterschoolzone. Grants will be announced Wednesday, May 26, through the same website.

“Economic hardships brought on by the pandemic have left many families scrambling for summer programs for their children,” CASE for Kids Director Lisa Thompson-Caruthers said. “These programs assist economically disadvantaged families with low-cost or free programs

while also allowing for high-quality, expanded learning opportunities to help support social-emotional health. We look forward to working with all four precincts in Harris County to supply safe, enriching summer programs to many county neighborhoods.”

Nonprofits from all four county precincts will receive grant funding. Services should be customized to meet community needs in individual Harris County precincts. Nonprofits may apply for multiple grant awards based on the location where services will be provided. Grant funds can be used to purchase materials and supplies for activities, add programming opportunities, and reduce fees or offer scholarships to families.

CASE for Kids is an afterschool intermediary founded through HCDE in 1999, which provides training, services, and resources for out-of-school time programs, including before and after school, weekend, and summer enrichment.

Families may find organizations offering programs within their communities through their Harris County precinct after May 26. For precinct offices, go to <http://harriscountytexas.gov>.

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