



## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **REQUEST FOR FUNDING-2024 GRAB & GO SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM**

Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department is requesting funding approval of \$60,000 to facilitate the **2024 “Grab and Go Summer Feeding Program.”** This program provides grab and go meals or snacks for Caddo Parish youth, ages 4-17 who participate in Caddo Park’s 2024 summer programs from May – September. This program has been approved for funding by the Caddo Parish Commission since 2021, serving over 23,000 grab and go meals and/or snacks to our resilient Caddo Parish youth.

As you know, thousands of Caddo Parish youth rely on school for regular meals. But in the summer, those regular meals disappear! With your approved funding, Caddo Parish youth will not only receive healthy Grab and Go meals/snacks, they will also be able to participate in a diverse slate of recreational/athletic programs, health and wellness activities, crime prevention and nature education programs. This summer feeding program touches every Commissioner’s district, while providing a meaningful impact on our Caddo Parish youth and respective communities.

If approved, the “Grab and Go Summer Feeding Program” will continue to be a "game changer" in how the Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department deliver quality programs and services to our Caddo Parish youth. Participating youth and respective parents/citizens have continued to express their sincere appreciation of the Caddo Parish Commission and Parish Administration for this invaluable service during the summer season. Furthermore, the Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department envision this program to become a “model” program for Caddo Parish and the State of Louisiana.

#### **Local/State/National-Child Hunger Facts:**

- According to Center for Planning Excellence, over 33% of Shreveport households are now experiencing food insecurity. The national rate is 16%.
- 683,100 people in Louisiana live with food insecurities, 234,120 are children. That means more people struggle with food insecurity in Louisiana than the total populations of Shreveport, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans combined (Feeding Louisiana).
- 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. Addressing this disparity is essential for all children to thrive, regardless of their zip code or circumstances.

- Over 13 million children(18.5% or 1 in 5 kids) in the United States live in food insecure households (2022 USDA Annual Report).

## **Setting Kids Up For Success**

### **-Education-**

Many children throughout Caddo Parish and Louisiana only eat when they are at school. Food-secure children tend to perform better academically have better health, and have a greater chance of achieving financial independence and overall well-being of life.

### **-Health-**

Food secure individuals have lower levels of chronic conditions, better mental health, and fewer hospitalizations.

### **-Productivity-**

Less time worrying about meeting basic needs means individuals have more time to positively contribute to their community and improve upon their own life.

### **-Stability-**

Food Security in our communities can serve as a foundation for individuals and families to lift themselves out of poverty and help bring stability to local communities.

## **Grab and Go Summer Feeding Program Emphasis:**

The proposed “Grab and Go Summer Feeding Program” will place emphasis on the following:

- Public Health
- Promoting healthy childhood/youth environments
- Promoting outdoor learning and play, beyond the school day or Out of School Time
- Development of the “whole” child/youth.

## **Compliance:**

Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department staff will comply with all required reporting guidelines, as requested.

## Budget Breakdown

### Food/Vendors:

**\$55,000.00**

- Assorted sandwiches, assorted fruits, hydration drinks/organic juices, pizza slices, salads, hot dogs, chicken strips, quesadillas, nachos, breakfast bars/muffins, etc.
- Subway, Sam's Club, Walmart, Whole Foods Market, Raising Cane's, Pizza Hut, Dillas, Whataburger, local Food Trucks, etc.

### Marketing/Promotions:

**\$5,000.00**

- radio buys, social media campaign ads, flyers, banners/signage, etc.

### Serving Equipment/Supplies:

**\$5,000.00** (In-Kind or Parks Department will fund)

- Serving gloves, masks, hand sanitizer stations, cleaning/disinfectant supplies, trash receptacles, drink/food coolers, carts, food bags, tables, tents, serving utensils, warmers, etc.

### **Total Amount Requesting From Parish Commission:**

**\$60,000.00**

### **2024 Summer Youth Programs Offered**

#### **(Athletics, Health and Wellness)**

Sport camps/clinics, football, basketball, baseball, Jiu-Jitsu, soccer, lacrosse, softball, disc golf, weightlifting, fitness training.

### **Estimated # of Participants**

**4,000**

#### **(Recreation/Education and Special Events)**

Crime Prevention workshops, Safe Summer events, Music in the Park events, Taking it to the Streets events, and related community, outreach programs via churches and/or youth non-profit organizations.

**4,000**

#### **(Nature Education)**

Wild Child Summer Camps (6 sessions), Outdoor Adventure events (canoeing, archery activities, etc.), park clean-ups and community garden activities, trail hikes, youth group tours, arts and craft workshops, etc.

**3,000**



## **-SAMPLE MEDIA RELEASE-**

### **Caddo Parish to host inaugural "Girl You Got It" youth basketball camp**

#### **CADDO PARKS AND RECREATION AND FORMER WNBA STAR TO HOST INAUGURAL "GIRL YOU GOT IT" SUMMER BASKETBALL AND EMPOWERMENT CAMP**

Caddo Parish, LA – The Parish of Caddo is calling all area youth girl basketball players, ages 6-14! Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation will host its inaugural "Girl You Got It" Summer Basketball and Empowerment Camp on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 2pm - 5pm at the LSU-Shreveport Gymnasium. This unique basketball camp is for girls only and all campers will learn and refine their fundamental basketball skills, while being encouraged to achieve their life goals.

In addition to the basketball skill component of the camp, campers will be required to attend a series of age-appropriate life-skill presentations. Topics to include, but not limited to the following:

- Self-Esteem
- Mental Health Awareness
- Substance Abuse and Opioids
- Social Media Safety
- Bullying /Cyberbullying
- Relationships and Dating Violence
- Nutrition and Wellness Tips
- College Recruiting Process

Guest camp instructor will be former Lady Techster and WNBA Indiana Fever player, Shantel Hardison.

“Special thanks to our local basketball legend, Shantel Hardison for facilitating this awesome camp with our parks and recreation department staff. The life skill presentations will bring a uniqueness to this camp, providing a platform to discuss the challenges our Caddo Parish youth and teen girls face daily, and offer invaluable feedback to meet those challenges, said Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation director Patrick Wesley.

Cost is \$20 per camper. All campers will receive a camp tee shirt and camp photo. A grab and go meal and hydration drinks will also be provided by Raising Cane’s and the Caddo Parish Commission.

Camp slots are limited. Registration deadline is June 10th. To register online, visit [www.caddoparks.org](http://www.caddoparks.org) . For additional camp information, contact Mary Murphy at (318)220-6284.

-SAMPLE MEDIA RELEASE-

**Caddo Parks, community organizations joining forces to offer youth crime prevention programs**

**CADDO PARKS & RECREATION, LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE JOINING FORCES TO OFFER SPRING & SUMMER YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

Caddo Parish, LA - Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with Caddo Parish Juvenile Services, Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, Project Celebration Inc. and the Kennedy Center are joining forces this spring and summer to host several youth crime prevention program presentations.

All presentations will be geared towards youth, teens and parent audiences.

"We are excited to partner with our local criminal justice and law enforcement agencies again this year," said Caddo Parish parks and recreation director Patrick Wesley. "These crime prevention presentations will continue to provide a platform to discuss the challenges our youth and teens face daily and offer invaluable feedback and resources to meet those challenges," said Wesley.

Presentation topic discussions will include, but not limited to the following:

- Curfews
- Youth behaviors and decision-making influence (improving police and youth contact/interactions)
- Gun Violence
- Sexting/Texting and Internet Safety
- Dating Violence (Recognizing Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships)
- Strategies in preventing juvenile delinquency

All presentations are free and refreshments will be provided by the Caddo Parish Commission. Presentations can be scheduled for schools, churches and community organizations.

For more information or to schedule contact Cattina Williams at (318) 218-7070 or [cwilliams@caddo.org](mailto:cwilliams@caddo.org).