



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM TO CREATE SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH IN NEED

Selected non-profit summer camp operators will receive up to \$12,000 to provide scholarships to cover 100% of a participating family's summer camp expenses.

Shelby County, TN – The Shelby County Mayor's Office of Education is encouraging summer camp operators to apply for the 2022 Summer Camp Grants Program, a new initiative to allow more youth to attend high-quality summer camps throughout Shelby County. Selected summer camp programs will receive up to \$12,000 to cover all camp-related expenses for families in need. Applications are available now through Friday, May 6, 2022 at www.shelbycountyttn.gov/3775/Summer-Camp-Grant-Program.

The Summer Camp Grants Program is funded by ARPA and paid directly to the summer camp operator. Operators will solicit participants through their normal enrollment process and provide full scholarships to families who demonstrate need. Each participating operator is expected to provide scholarships to at least ten families.

To qualify, summer camp operators must have at least two years of successful summer camp programming and provide documentation to verify their current 501(c)3 status and describe their program. Selected summer camp operators must provide a final report to Shelby County Government to summarize how the funds were used.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “Each year, many families look for engaging and enriching summer activities for their children. However, the average cost for youth summer activities is hundreds to thousands of dollars, which some cannot afford. Through the Summer Camp Grants



Program, participating camps can provide youth in Shelby County with an enriching summer experience at no cost to their families. It is my hope that we all continue to identify strategies to support the youngest members of our community, provide free or low-cost resources to families, and invest in our young people's futures."

Dr. Cedrick Gray, Shelby County Director of Education: "Summertime should be a time of both learning and fun for all youth in Shelby County. Oftentimes, however, that time is limited to those with resources. The Shelby County Mayor's Office of Education seeks to provide both learning and fun to youth and their families who may otherwise not be able to engage due to a lack of resources. We are beyond excited to offer our community this invaluable resource so that all youth in the county can have the opportunity to enjoy a summer filled with enrichment and excitement."

Applications are available now through Friday, May 6, 2022. Grantees are reviewed on a rolling basis and selected grantees will be notified Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Eligible and interested applicants must apply at www.shelbycountyttn.gov/3775/Summer-Camp-Grant-Program.

(End of Release)