

Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Request By: Chairman Connolly

Question: How can the fee schedule for the School-Age Child Care (SACC) program be modified to offset the proposed reductions to the program?

Response: The School-Age Child Care (SACC) program provides child care services to children in elementary schools throughout the County. The SACC program provides the following services:

School Year SACC

The SACC school year program is offered on a schedule that corresponds to the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) schedule so that parents are able to work full-time. There are three components to the school year SACC program:

- Before School – 7:15 a.m. until school begins;
- After Kindergarten – End of morning kindergarten until the end of school day; and
- After School – End of school day until 6:15 p.m.

Currently, all but six elementary schools have a school year SACC program. It should also be noted that two new elementary schools (Coppermine and Laurel Hill) will be opening in FY 2010 and two rooms will be available for SACC at each of these schools. Additional funding and positions would be required to add these rooms.

Spring and Winter SACC

The spring and winter SACC programs are offered at consolidated sites throughout the County and correspond to the vacation schedule of FCPS. All centers operate from 7:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. daily.

Summer SACC

Weekly sessions are offered at consolidated sites throughout the County. All centers operate from 7:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. daily.

Fees are collected from parents as payment for SACC services. These fees are determined based on general program costs and are assessed on a sliding scale adjusting for household income. As a result, 75 percent of the program's cost is recovered. Costs not recovered through fees covers only the difference between full fee and the reduced fees charged to families with low incomes and the above-average cost of providing services for children with special needs.

As part of the FY 2010 Lines of Business review, the Department of Family Services proposed reducing SACC enrollment by 870 children saving \$4.0 million in expenditures, but losing \$3.0 million in revenues, for a net savings of \$1.0 million. Given that a total of \$27.4 million in fee revenue was collected in FY 2008, a one-time 4

percent fee increase would offset \$1.0 million of the County's cost in FY 2010. This fee increase would apply to all SACC services. Using the school year SACC program as an example, full paying families with one child in the After School program would pay \$11 more per month for services. The table below illustrates potential rate impacts to all three components of the school year SACC program.

Standard School Year 2008-2009 Monthly Fee Schedule

Adjusted Household Income	Before School (1 Child)		After Kindergarten (1 Child)		After School (1 Child)	
	Current Rate	Including 4% Rate Increase	Current Rate	Including 4% Rate Increase	Current Rate	Including 4% Rate Increase
\$50,000 and over	\$125	\$130	\$276	\$287	\$276	\$287
\$45,000 - \$49,999	\$122	\$127	\$270	\$281	\$270	\$281
\$40,000 - 44,999	\$119	\$124	\$263	\$274	\$263	\$274
\$36,000 - 39,999	\$110	\$114	\$238	\$248	\$238	\$248
\$32,000 - 35,999	\$101	\$105	\$219	\$228	\$219	\$228
\$28,999 - 31,999	\$89	\$93	\$198	\$206	\$198	\$206
\$25,000 - 27,999	\$81	\$84	\$178	\$185	\$178	\$185
\$22,000 - 24,999	\$63	\$66	\$139	\$145	\$139	\$145
\$18,000 - 21,999	\$45	\$47	\$100	\$104	\$100	\$104
\$14,000 - 17,999	\$25	\$26	\$69	\$72	\$69	\$72
\$13,999 and below	\$7	\$7	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10

Since fees are already set to recover the program costs, making such an adjustment would represent a departure from the current policy of only charging parents the actual cost of the SACC services. It should also be noted that this adjustment would be in addition to any potential increases associated with the regular annual adjustments due to higher personnel costs.