



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM
Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

Date: September 28, 2023
To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Through: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator
From: Beth Powell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Subject: Notice of Grant Award from Florida Blue Foundation- Park-Based Senior Wellness Activities to Assist in the Development of Holistic Partnerships/Networks of Service to Address Mental/Behavioral Health

BACKGROUND:

In January 2021, Indian River County Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with the Indian River County Department of Health, was awarded a three-year grant of \$198,905 to provide programs and wellness equipment for seniors (adults 55+) with focus in two areas of Indian River County. These programs aim to improve senior mental well-being, reduce loneliness, and enhance physical wellness.

Since the Spring of 2021, the Senior Wellness Program has grown from approximately 25 to over 200 participants per week. With these programs demonstrating overwhelming success, the Florida Blue Foundation approached Indian River County Parks and Recreation in April of 2023 with an opportunity to apply for another three-year grant from the Foundation to continue to provide these much-needed and successful programs.

On September 26, 2023, Indian River County Parks and Recreation was notified that the Florida Blue Foundation had awarded Indian River County the Senior Wellness Program with a three-year grant of \$200,000, with no required County match. This grant will be utilized to continue to provide the Senior Wellness programs currently offered while expanding the programming to other areas of Indian River County. This grant funding will provide for a Senior Wellness Programs Recreation Leader (current position) and an additional Part-Time Senior Wellness Programs Recreation Leader (new position) for a three-year term. Parks and Recreation will seek grant and funding opportunities to extend these positions past the term of this grant; otherwise, these positions will sunset at the end of the grant term.

FUNDING:

Upon receiving the grant, a budget amendment, in the amount of \$200,000, will fund the grant and respective salary, benefit, and operating expenditures in MSTU Fund/Recreation/FL Blue Foundation Seniors Grant accounts.

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
MSTU Fund/Recreation/FL Blue Foundation Seniors Grant	00410872-Variou-21801	\$200,000

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board accept this grant from Florida Blue Foundation and authorize the Chairman to execute the Florida Blue Foundation, Mental Well-Being Grant Agreement after review and approval by the County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

ATTACHEMENTS:

Florida Blue Foundation- Mental Well-being Grant Agreement
Florida Blue Foundation – IRC Grant Form

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR October 3, 2023