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§ 2501. Congressional findings

The Congress finds that—

(a) the quality of life in urban areas is closely related to the availability of fully functional park and recreation systems including land, facilities, and service programs;

(b) residents of cities need close-to-home recreational opportunities that are adequate to specialized urban demands, with parks and facilities properly located, developed, and well maintained;

(c) the greatest recreational deficiencies with respect to land, facilities, and programs are found in many large cities, especially at the neighborhood level;

(d) inadequate financing of urban recreation programs due to fiscal difficulties in many large cities has led to the deterioration of facilities, nonavailability of recreation services, and an inability to adapt recreational programs to changing circumstances; and

(e) there is no existing Federal assistance program which fully addresses the needs for physical rehabilitation and revitalization of these park and recreation systems.

(Pub. L. 95-625, title X, §1002, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3538.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 95-625, title X, §1001, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3538, provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978'."

§ 2502. Congressional statement of purpose; complementary program authorization; terms and conditions

The purpose of this chapter is to authorize the Secretary to establish an urban park and recreation recovery program which would provide Federal grants to economically hard-pressed communities specifically for the rehabilitation of critically needed recreation areas, facilities, and development of improved recreation programs. This program is intended to complement existing Federal programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Community Development Grant Programs by encouraging and stimulating local governments to revitalize their park and recreation systems and to make long-term commitments to continuing maintenance of these systems. Such assistance shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Sec-

retary considers appropriate and in the public interest to carry out the purposes of this chapter. It is further the purpose of this chapter to improve recreation facilities and expand recreation services in urban areas with a high incidence of crime and to help deter crime through the expansion of recreation opportunities for at-risk youth. It is the further purpose of this section¹ to increase the security of urban parks and to promote collaboration between local agencies involved in parks and recreation, law enforcement, youth social services, and juvenile justice system.

(Pub. L. 95-625, title X, §1003, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3539; Pub. L. 103-322, title III, §§31501, 31505(b), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 1888, 1890.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 struck out "for a period of five years" after "development of improved recreation programs" and "short-term" before "program is intended to complement" and inserted at end "It is further the purpose of this chapter to improve recreation facilities and expand recreation services in urban areas with a high incidence of crime and to help deter crime through the expansion of recreation opportunities for at-risk youth. It is the further purpose of this section to increase the security of urban parks and to promote collaboration between local agencies involved in parks and recreation, law enforcement, youth social services, and juvenile justice system."

"SECRETARY" DEFINED

Secretary means the Secretary of the Interior, see section 2 of Pub. L. 95-625, set out as a note under section 2503 of this title.

§ 2503. Definitions

When used in this chapter the term—

(a) "recreational areas and facilities" means indoor or outdoor parks, buildings, sites, or other facilities which are dedicated to recreation purposes and administered by public or private nonprofit agencies to serve the recreation needs of community residents. Emphasis shall be on public facilities readily accessible to residential neighborhoods, including multiple-use community centers which have recreation as one of their primary purposes, but excluding major sports arenas, exhibition areas, and conference halls used primarily for commercial sports, spectator, or display activities;

(b) "rehabilitation grants" means matching capital grants to local governments for the purpose of rebuilding, remodeling, expanding, or developing existing outdoor or indoor recreation areas and facilities, including improvements in park landscapes, buildings, and support facilities, but excluding routine maintenance and upkeep activities;

(c) "innovation grants" means matching grants to local governments to cover costs of personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies, or services designed to demonstrate innovative and cost-effective ways to augment park and recreation opportunities at the neighborhood level and to address common problems related to facility operations and improved delivery of recreation service, and which shall exclude routine operation and maintenance activities;

¹ So in original. Probably should be "chapter".

(d) “at-risk youth recreation grants” means—

- (1) rehabilitation grants,
- (2) innovation grants, or
- (3) matching grants for continuing program support for programs of demonstrated value or success in providing constructive alternatives to youth at risk for engaging in criminal behavior, including grants for operating, or coordinating recreation programs and services;

in neighborhoods and communities with a high prevalence of crime, particularly violent crime or crime committed by youthful offenders; in addition to the purposes specified in subsection (b) of this section, rehabilitation grants referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection may be used for the provision of lighting, emergency phones or other capital improvements which will improve the security of urban parks;

(e) “recovery action program grants” means matching grants to local governments for development of local park and recreation recovery action programs to meet the requirements of this chapter. Such grants will be for resource and needs assessment, coordination, citizen involvement and planning, and program development activities to encourage public definition of goals, and develop priorities and strategies for overall recreation system recovery;

(f) “maintenance” means all commonly accepted practices necessary to keep recreation areas and facilities operating in a state of good repair and to protect them from deterioration resulting from normal wear and tear;

(g) “general purpose local government” means any city, county, town, township, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State, including the District of Columbia, and insular areas;

(h) “special purpose local government” means any local or regional special district, public-purpose corporation or other limited political subdivision of a State, including but not limited to park authorities; park, conservation, water or sanitary districts; and school districts;

(i) “private, nonprofit agency” means a community-based, non-profit organization, corporation, or association organized for purposes of providing recreational, conservation, and educational services directly to urban residents on either a neighborhood or community-wide basis through voluntary donations, voluntary labor, or public or private grants;

(j) “State” means any State of the United States or any instrumentality of a State approved by the Governor; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and insular areas; and

(k) “insular areas” means Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Pub. L. 95-625, title X, §1004, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3539; Pub. L. 103-322, title III, §31502, Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 1888.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsecs. (d) to (k). Pub. L. 103-322 added subsec. (d) and redesignated former subsecs. (d) to (j) as (e) to (k), respectively.

“SECRETARY” DEFINED

Pub. L. 95-625, §2, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3470, provided that: “As used in this Act [see Short Title of 1978 Amendment note set out under section 1 of this title], except as otherwise specifically provided, the term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior.”

§ 2504. Federal assistance grants

(a) General purpose local governments eligible for assistance; basis; publication in Federal Register: list of eligibles, criteria of eligibility

Eligibility of general purpose local governments for assistance under this chapter shall be based upon need as determined by the Secretary. Within one hundred and twenty days after November 10, 1978, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register, a list of the local governments eligible to participate in this program, to be accompanied by a discussion of criteria used in determining eligibility. Such criteria shall be based upon factors which the Secretary determines are related to deteriorated recreational facilities or systems, and physical and economic distress.

(b) Other general purpose local governments eligible for assistance; limitation of funds

Notwithstanding the list of eligible local governments established in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary is also authorized to establish eligibility, at his discretion and in accord with the findings and purpose of this chapter, to other general purpose local governments in standard metropolitan statistical areas as defined by the census: *Provided*, That grants to these discretionary applicants do not exceed in the aggregate 15 per centum of funds appropriated under this chapter for rehabilitation, innovation, and recovery action program grants.

(c) Priority criteria for project selection and approval

The Secretary shall also establish priority criteria for project selection and approval which consider such factors as—

- (1) population;
- (2) condition of existing recreation areas and facilities;
- (3) demonstrated deficiencies in access to neighborhood recreation opportunities, particularly for minority, and low- and moderate-income residents;
- (4) public participation in determining rehabilitation or development needs;
- (5) the extent to which a project supports or complements target activities undertaken as part of a local government’s overall community development and urban revitalization program;
- (6) the extent to which a proposed project would provide employment opportunities for minorities, youth, and low- and moderate-income residents in the project neighborhood and/or would provide for participation of neighborhood, nonprofit or tenant organizations in the proposed rehabilitation activity or in subsequent maintenance, staffing, or supervision of recreation areas and facilities;
- (7) the amount of State and private support for a project as evidenced by commitments of