



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Ralph Wright, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING DATE: June 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2026-99, Approving the Agreement with Riverside County Children and Families Commission Allowing the City of Banning to Provide Swim Lessons Scholarships to Eligible Children Under the Age of Five

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2026-99

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside County Children and Families Commission provides services through First Five California to support and optimize early childhood development for children from prenatal to the age of five. The funding for these programs and services was established and provided beginning in 1998 through the California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10). One of the First Five California service areas, through their mission, is to provide programming that emphasizes children's health and drowning prevention programs, like Learn to Swim programs, which are an avenue to deliver this service.

The Riverside County Children and Families Commission partnered with the City of Banning Parks and Recreation Department by offering up to 100 scholarships for eligible children 6 months of age through 5 years of age. The term of the agreement was from April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. During this period, the City registered over 33 eligible participants through the grant program, and all registration fees were supported by the grant for these registrants.

The Riverside County Children and Family Commission has offered to enter into a new fourteen-month agreement for the remainder of the 2026 and 2027 aquatic season. The grant would have a maximum funding of a Not to Exceed amount of \$4,000. The Banning Parks and Recreation Department would allow eligible registrants to participate in this program within the existing swim lessons program and schedule. Depending on participation levels, the department may create additional swim lesson sessions in the 2026 or 2027 aquatic season specifically for this program. There is no added cost to the City from offering these programs, and all program costs will be reimbursed from the funds provided under this agreement.

The scholarship program will provide swim lessons to eligible children ages six months to five years, with priority given to families eligible for public assistance, those who have experienced near drowning, or those at risk for drowning, as well as families served by First 5 Riverside County Funded agency. Lessons will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis to families that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Children served by a First 5 Riverside County-funded agency.
- Children who have experienced a near drowning or who are at a greater risk for drowning (ex.

- child who lives near an open body of water)
- Children of families eligible for public assistance, including but not limited to:
 - CalWorks
 - CalFresh
 - Medi-Cal
 - WIC
 - Quality Start Riverside County CAPP/RHAP
 - Other Criteria as approved by First 5 Riverside County that define eligibility

Participating children must be at least six months old to enroll. Priority enrollment will be given to children who are high risk for drowning: those living in a home with access to a pool, have a family member with a pool, infants/toddlers, children who have experienced a near drowning, and children involved in the child welfare system.

JUSTIFICATION:

The agreement with Riverside County Children and Families Commission will provide scholarships to eligible children in the community that might otherwise be unable to participate and without participation in drowning prevention and learn to swim programs could put them at risk for accidental drowning and negative health impacts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

All programming costs incurred by the City for the swim lessons associated with the agreement will be completely reimbursed by the provided scholarships. There is minimal staff time associated with reporting, as the City of Banning will be responsible for providing demographic information and results to the Riverside County Children and Families Commission, along with monthly and quarterly reimbursement requests. The budget for expenditures related to this grant will be included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2026/27 Operating Budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Att_1_Resolution_2026-99_Agreement_with_RCCFC_Learn_to_Swim_Program.docx](#)
2. [Draft_RCCFSC_and_COB_Swim_Lessons_agreement_7.1.26-8.31.27-_unsigned.docx](#)