

Proposal Narrative Template

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Lake Havasu City

PROPOSED DATES OF PROGRAMMING

06/01/26 to 11/30/26

6.3.1 ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Lake Havasu City was established on September 30, 1963, following approval by the Mohave County Board of Supervisors. The community was founded by entrepreneur Robert P. McCulloch, Sr. and developer C.V. Wood as a planned, self-sufficient city on the site of a former military outpost.

6.3.2 COMMUNITIES SERVED

The Lake Havasu City (City) Parks and Recreation Department, Aquatics Division actively participates in the American Red Cross Centennial Campaign, providing swimming lessons and water safety education to underserved populations. These populations include, but are not limited to, members of the Chemehuevi Tribe and the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), both located near Lake Havasu City.

This initiative has improved water safety awareness and swimming competency while also creating employment pathways for underserved individuals as lifeguards and American Red Cross–certified water safety instructors.

Building on the success of the KinderSwim program, a collaborative, week-long water safety and survival program for kindergarten students and the Mission 5: Ready to Rescue program, which ensures participating fifth-grade students can pass the American Red Cross Water Competency Test, the City has identified a critical service gap.

Program evaluations indicate that some youth either did not receive prior swimming instruction or were unable to retain essential water safety skills. As a result, additional

instruction is needed to achieve water competency and reduce the risk of water-related incidents.

To address this gap, the Lake Havasu City Parks and Recreation proposes *Mission 3: Water Ready*, a targeted intervention for third-grade students, implemented in partnership with the Lake Havasu Unified School District #1 (LHUSD).

6.3.3 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Lake Havasu City's Aquatics Division, in partnership with Lake Havasu Unified School District #1 (LHUSD), will implement *Mission 3: Water Ready*, a structured, school-integrated swim instruction program targeting approximately all 350 third-grade students, including those third graders enrolled in the self-contained special education classrooms, across six elementary schools during the 2026-2027 school year.

Mission 3: Water Ready supports the City's goals to reduce drowning risk, increase water competency, and promote long-term safety and confidence in aquatic environments. It also creates a structured continuum between *KinderSwim* and *Mission 5: Ready to Rescue*.

The program is designed to deliver consistent, standards-based aquatic education through four instructional sessions conducted over four weeks. Each session will last 1.5 hours, incorporating 15 minutes for student preparation, 60 minutes of direct, in-water instruction, and 15 minutes for changing and coordinated transportation. Instruction will be provided by American Red Cross–certified water safety instructors, ensuring alignment with nationally recognized safety and competency standards.

Mission 3: Water Ready is embedded within the LHUSD curriculum and will count toward students' physical education requirements, reinforcing both educational and public health objectives. To reduce common barriers to participation, lessons will be provided during the school day as part of the regular academic schedule. LHUSD will provide transportation via school bus for students and staff. To support skill development, the City will provide the necessary learning equipment, including swimming goggles and kickboards, for students' use during instruction.

In addition, the grant will provide each student who successfully completes *Mission 3: Water Ready* a new life vest to promote continued water safety beyond the instructional setting. Given Lake Havasu City's proximity to open water and the high prevalence of residential pools, this component serves as a critical reinforcement of drowning prevention strategies at the household and community levels.

The City is requesting \$52,080 for full program implementation. By investing in \$148.40 per student, the CDC Foundation will help ensure equitable access to life-saving skills, strengthen community safety, and support sustainable, inclusive aquatic education. If full funding is unavailable, the City may remove the cost of the life vests (approximately \$8,130) and respectfully requests \$43,950 (\$125.57 per student) for City staffing and swim lessons.

Program implementation is scheduled to begin on June 1, 2026, and conclude by October 30, 2026, with final data collection and reporting completed by December 31, 2026. The City has completed preliminary logistical planning, including staffing, transportation coordination, and administrative requirements, to ensure timely and effective program delivery.

Mission 3: Water Ready will implement a pre- and post-program evaluation using assessment tools provided by the CDC Foundation to measure changes in each student's water competency. Outcomes will be aligned with American Red Cross standards to ensure consistency with nationally recognized benchmarks. The program aims to ensure that at least 85% of participating students demonstrate measurable improvement in water competency between pre- and post-assessments.

6.3.4 SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Lake Havasu Unified School District #1 (LHUSD) serves as the City's primary community partner in the implementation of *Mission 3: Water Ready*. Through this collaboration, the program will be delivered to all six LHUSD elementary school sites, ensuring broad and equitable access for third-grade students across the district.

LHUSD plays a critical role in facilitating program delivery by providing transportation (busing) for students and accompanying staff during the school day. Integrating the program into the regular school schedule allows for seamless participation while minimizing common barriers such as transportation limitations and scheduling conflicts.

In addition, LHUSD staff will provide general oversight and supervision of students throughout program participation, ensuring alignment with district policies and maintaining a safe, structured learning environment. This partnership reflects a coordinated, cross-sector approach that strengthens program implementation and supports shared educational and public health outcomes.
