CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
Department of Recreation, Parks &
Cultural Activities

Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Policy Update

June 23, 2026

Agenda

1. Review Request
2. Background and Methodology Overview
3. Key Findings from Community Engagement
4. Park & Recreation Commission Recommendation

RPCA Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Update

Request

- Receive the update to the RPCA Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Model and Adopt the updated Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Policy.

Key Elements of the Discussion

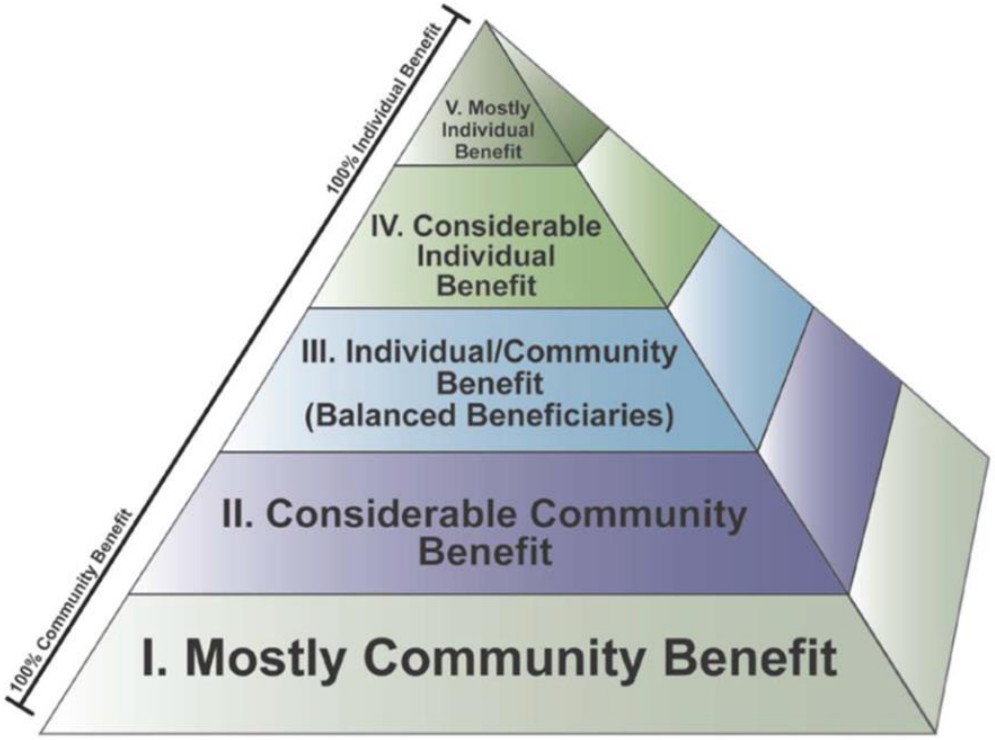
- The Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery model guides the department regarding use of tax dollars, alternative funding, and user fees for programs and services.
- Changes and additions to the 2019 policy are based on community input and may impact fees for some programs and services.

Summary

Background Information

Programs and services provided by RPCA are implemented through an approved Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Policy.

- RPCA uses a resource allocation pyramid methodology to solicit feedback from the public.
- In 2025 RPCA added 3 new service categories for the community to consider.
- The pyramid guides a community sorting process for all services based on the extent of community benefit.
- Services with greater community benefit receive more significant tax subsidy, and those with greater individual benefit are supported by user fees.



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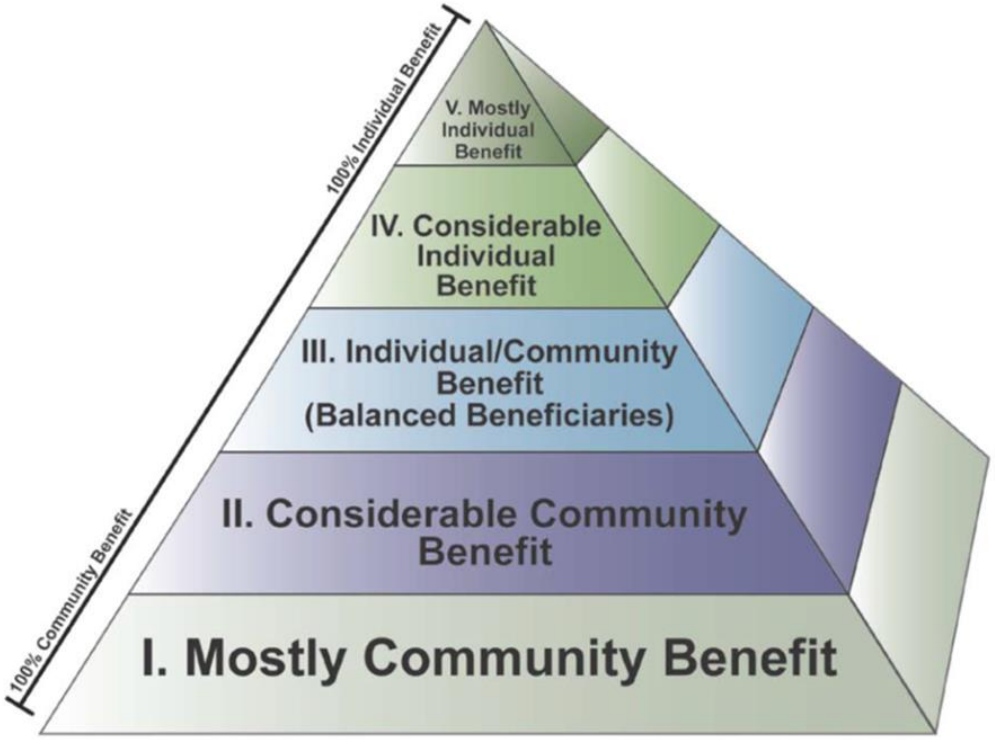
Background Information

Why it Matters

- Provides a structured, fair, and consistent framework for resource allocation, setting fees, and cost recovery.
- Aligns community needs with services and available resources.
- Guides investment in short- and long-term goals and implementation strategies.
- Facilitates increased agility in decision-making.



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Background Information

Community Engagement:

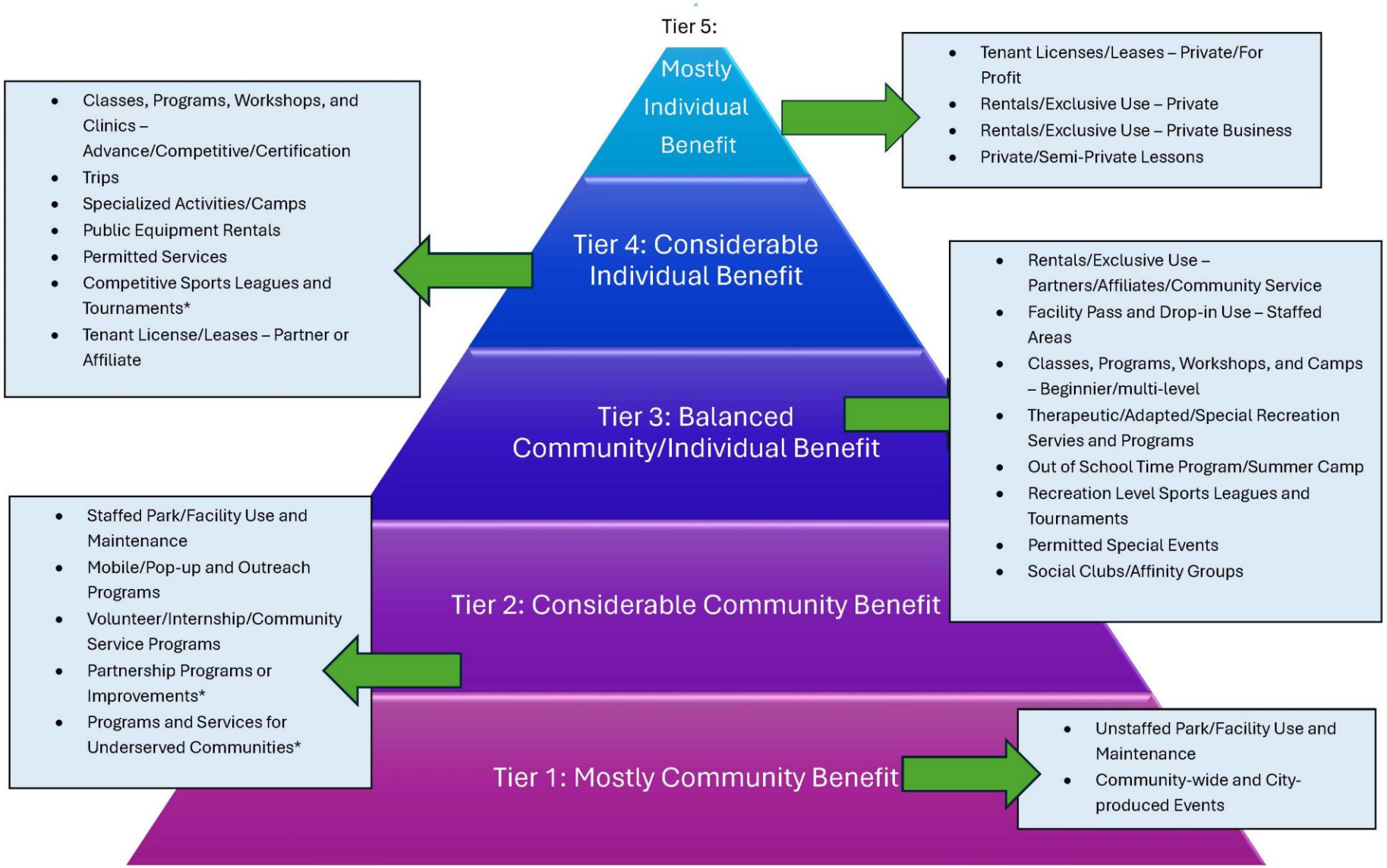
- From November 2024 - January 2025, RPCA held 6 community meetings or focus groups and conducted an online survey of over 500 community members to engage the public in sorting services based on this methodology.
- From January 2026 – February 2026, RPCA solicited community feedback on the findings.
- On February 19, 2026, the Park & Recreation Commission held a public hearing.

Key Findings

Through the community engagement process:

- Four categories of service decreased by one tier on the pyramid. The community identified these services as having greater community benefit than reflected in 2019.
- Two categories of service increased by one or more tier on the pyramid. The community identified these services as having more individual benefit than reflected in 2019.
- Three new services were included:
  - Programs & Services for Vulnerable Communities (Tier 2), Partnership Programs (Tier 2), and Competitive Sports Leagues & Tournaments (Tier 4)

Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Pyramid – RPCA 2026



*New Service Categories added after 2019

Results

Public Comment Summary

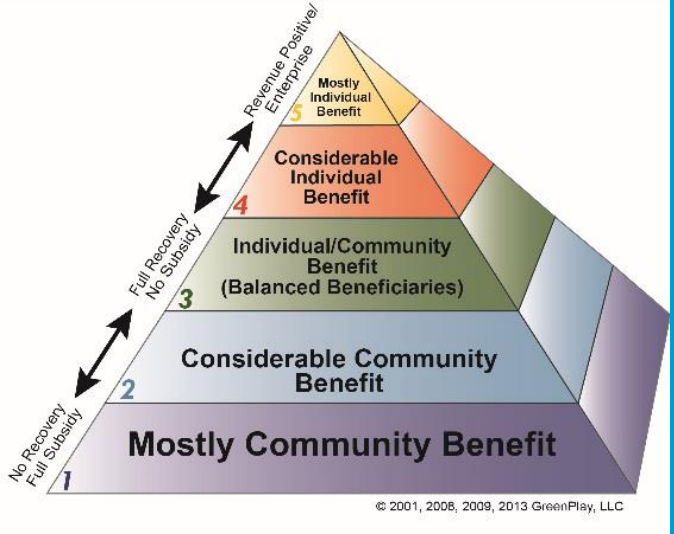
From January 31 through February 15 Online:

- The majority of responses were affirmative or had no comments/concerns with the updates.

February 19 Park & Recreation Commission Public Hearing:

- Comments from the public supported the resource allocation and cost recovery model
- Focused on the need for updates to the field allocation process and youth sports affiliate policy.
- The Park & Recreation Commission voted unanimously to endorse the policy as is and encourages City Council to reinvest funds generated from tiers 4 and 5 to RPCA fields and facilities.

Key Findings and Impacts



Potential policy implication impacted by the update include:

- Introduction of Competitive Sports Leagues and Tournaments identified at Tier 4 (considerable individual benefit) while Recreation Level Leagues and Tournaments remained at Tier 3 (balanced community and individual benefit)
- This change will be considered and addressed through updates to the Sports Affiliate Policy

Impacts

Related Policies

Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Financial Policies and Procedures

Financial Assistance

Approved by City Council XXX

Draft Date	4/11/2019
Approval Date	xxxxxxx
Director Initials	
Primary Contact	RPCA Director

Section 1 – RPCA Sponsored Programs

Summary

The department encourages resident participation in City programs. A financial assistance policy and process is developed to allow for maximum resident participation in City programs.

Eligibility

All City residents who meet qualifications are eligible. All City programs on Tiers 1-4 of the Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy are eligible for financial assistance.

Policy Financial assistance may be granted according to the following schedule:

- 40% reduction for households where a child receives free or reduced lunch at an Alexandria City School.
- 50% reduction for households where a child receives free or reduced lunch and the family receives nutrition assistance (SNAP).
- 70% reduction for households where a child receives free or reduced lunch and also receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or where they reside in a City of Alexandria temporary shelter.
- Resident seniors (60 years old and above) may request a 20% discount on each program.
- Adults without children who have proof of receiving SNAP, Medicaid, or receive housing assistance may be granted a 30% fee reduction.
- Any resident may request assistance outside of the parameters listed above, if approved, the level of assistance is determined based on the application.
- Specific programs, including those with a longer time commitment, may provide financial assistance levels greater than those described above, information will be included with registration materials.

Procedures:

1. Resident completes the application and submits the accompanying documentation to the Recreation Program Manager/Center Director. Applications must be accompanied by written documentation.
2. Recreation Program Manager/Center Director reviews and verifies documentation.
3. Recreation Program Manager/Center Director may approve and sign the application as the Department Director Designee.
4. Any financial assistance requested that differs from the stated policy, or without documentation, must be approved by a Division Chief.

A **Financial Assistance Policy** allows for maximum resident participation.

FY 2026: $839,916 in financial assistance

Affiliate Policies support RPCA's partnership with key community organizations providing services RPCA would otherwise provide (e.g., Youth Sports, Arts, etc.)

Impacts

RPCA Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Update

Next Steps

- Adoption of the update to the RPCA Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Policy.
- Begin implementation, including adjustments to service fees.
- RPCA fees approved by Council will be adjusted through the FY 2028 budget process.