

32. EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION AND TEAM BUILDING POLICY (E.A.T.S.)

Background

It is in the interest of County government and the citizens served by County government, for County employees to be as productive as possible and to provide superior service to the public. In order to accomplish this, County employees must work as a cohesive team.

Additionally, ~~in order~~ to improve the effectiveness of the County's workforce all reasonable efforts must be made by the County's management to foster team building among County employees, reduce employee turnover, and make County government the employer of choice for those interested in a public service career.

To assist in accomplishing these objectives, the Board of Supervisors hereby establishes an Employee Appreciation and Team Building ~~Strategy (E.A.T.S.)~~ Policy that includes the expenditure of County funds for purposes of improving and enhancing employee team building, camaraderie, and morale.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to County departments on spending County funds for activities to improve employee morale, team spirit, and camaraderie ~~among coworkers.~~

Examples of such activities include department recreational events, picnics, barbeques, luncheons, trips to sporting or other special events within Lake County, purchase of wearables/accessories with Department or County logo, or other activities that would ~~allow department employees to gather as a group in a relaxed environment.~~ promote camaraderie among department employees.

County employees will be encouraged to ~~attend~~ participate in such ~~events~~ activities to build team spirit, ~~camaraderie~~, and morale. These department activities are in lieu of a County wide employee appreciation event.

Funding

~~It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to provide funding to County departments for the purpose of conducting special events, as referenced above.~~ Each fiscal year, departments are hereby authorized to spend up to \$~~2520~~ per employee as budgeted, to include permanent full- and part-time employees and extra help/temporary employees. Proposed E.A.T.S. employee appreciation and team building activity expenditures shall be submitted to the Administrative Office, and approved by the CAO, or designee.

These expenditures are intended to be authorized per employee rather than per employee allocation. If a department is experiencing known vacancies, employee appreciation and team building expenditures should still reflect the \$25 per employee threshold.

Any employee appreciation and team building activity expenditures charged to a Cal-Card must have prior authorization from the Administrative Office and be approved by the CAO, or designee.

Department heads are responsible for conducting, at a minimum, one event per year. Funds must be spent in the fiscal year for which they are allocated. Unexpended funds shall not be carried over from one fiscal year to another.

Rules

~~Events~~Employee appreciation and team building activities, ~~such as those listed above,~~ shall be at the discretion of the department head in terms of type, location and other logistics; however, all such events and activities shall be held within Lake County.

~~Department heads shall consult with their staff in determining the type of event to be selected. Events may be scheduled during lunch hours, on weekends, and before or after normal work hours.~~

Employee participation in such events shall be voluntary, and under no circumstances shall employees be compensated for their time and/or travel expenses in attending such events.

Under absolutely no circumstances will such an event provide or allow the serving of any type of alcoholic beverages. Furthermore, no purchase of gift cards or gifting of cash shall be permitted. Activities that violate sexual harassment and non-discrimination policies are also prohibited. Disallowed items cannot be purchased nor may any accessories or wearables contain profanity, obscenity, or otherwise negatively represent the County of Lake.

~~A list of suggested E.A.T.S. opportunities in Lake County is available from the Administrative Office.~~

Policy originally adopted by the Board of Supervisors 11/6/07, and revised by Board action 9/2/08. Revised by Board action 1/23/17. Revised by Board action 12/18/18