



Investing in our future

portland
children's
levy

Request for City Council Approval

Portland Children's Levy Background

In November of 2002, Portland voters approved the Portland Children's Levy (PCL). In the fall of 2008, voters renewed the levy for another five years. The levy generates approximately \$13 million annually for early childhood, after-school and mentoring, child abuse prevention/intervention and foster care programs. Administrative costs for the fund are capped at 5% of revenues and the fund obtains annual audits to assure compliance with the administrative cap.

An Allocation Committee governs the Children's Levy and grants funds to programs serving children and families residing in the City of Portland. The Allocation Committee is comprised of a City Commissioner (Dan Saltzman), a County Commissioner (Ted Wheeler), a representative of the Portland Business Alliance (Ron Beltz), a citizen member appointed by the County Board (Adrienne Livingston), and a citizen member appointed by the City Council (Alissa Keny-Guyer).

Request for City Council Approval

PCL is requesting that City Council approve the recommendations of the Allocation Committee to fund additional investments in after-school, mentoring, early childhood, and child abuse prevention and intervention programs in the amounts specified in the spreadsheet titled "Exhibit A: Portland Children's Levy – Additional Grant Awards".

2009 Competitive Funding Process Background

After an extensive planning and public input process (May 2008 – January 2009) Requests for Investment in all program areas were published in January 2009 and applications were due in March.

CHIF received 125 applications for funding totaling \$97,178,747 – approximately 2.6 times the funds projected to be available over 3 years. Over 100 community reviewers scored the applications. Public meetings were held to make funding decisions. Committee members made preliminary funding decisions, invited public comment on the preliminary decisions, and then made final funding decisions.

Funding Awards

In June 2009 the Portland Children's Levy awarded funds totaling \$36,741,286 (over three years) to 69 early childhood, child abuse prevention and intervention, foster care, after-school and mentoring programs.

Additional Funds

All funding awards were made as "up to" amounts. After contract negotiations were completed, the total amount contracted was less than the total amount awarded. Additionally, there was a fund balance of program dollars from the previous levy. Consequently, there is \$1,200,000 (over three years) of additional funds available for allocation.

Funding Parameters/Priorities

Given the extensive 2009 competitive funding process, the significant gap between funding requested and funding awarded and the limited amount of available funding, the Allocation Committee decided to allocate the additional funds to programs that participated in the 2009 funding process rather than open a new competitive process.

After hearing public comment regarding proposed funding parameters at the November 13, 2009 meeting, the Allocation Committee set the following parameters/priorities for allocating the additional funds:

- 1) *New (meaning not previously funded by PCL) full service after-school programs.* This was prioritized because it was the most competitive funding category and the demand for new programming in this category significantly exceeded the supply when compared to the other funding categories.
- 2) *Programs that are both new (to PCL) and culturally specific from any funding category.* New programs were prioritized because the bulk of new levy funds (87%) went to fund continuing programming despite the fact that 42% of the total funding requested was for new programming. Culturally specific programs were prioritized to reflect a similar priority in the original Request for Investments and to preserve the percentage of overall PCL funds invested in culturally specific programs.
- 3) *Increasing current grants to culturally specific programs only, in any funding category.* This would help achieve the goal of increasing investment in culturally specific programming.

Funding Decisions

Staff provided Allocation Committee members with summarized application data sheets, aggregated funding slates from the previous funding rounds, a list of 2009 funding awards and staff recommendations for funding. Allocation Committee members submitted individual slates for funding to staff prior to the funding meeting, and staff aggregated the individual slates to determine the level of agreement/disagreement on funding individual applications.

A public meeting was held on December 14, 2009 to make funding decisions. Decisions were made starting with applications all Committee members wanted to fund and proceeding to applications with lower levels of Committee support for funding. Committee members made preliminary funding decisions, invited public comment on the preliminary decisions, and then made final funding decisions.

Exhibit A:
Portland Children's Levy
Additional Grant Awards December 2009

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After School Programs

Applicant Name	Program Name	Funding Awarded
Metropolitan Family Services	Harold Oliver Primary SUN	\$209,090
Campfire USA	David Douglas - 1 SUN School Site	\$209,090
Friendly House	Project Return	\$137,500
Northwest Family Services	Latino Family Empowerment Project	\$243,247
After School Total		\$798,927

Mentoring Programs

Applicant Name	Program Name	Funding Awarded
IRCO	African Immigrant Mentoring	\$160,073
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center	POIC Mentoring	\$125,000
Mentoring Total		\$285,073

Early Childhood Programs

Applicant Name	Program Name	Funding Awarded
Latino Network	Juntos Aprendemos	\$66,000
Early Childhood Total		\$66,000

Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention Programs

Applicant Name	Program Name	Funding Awarded
Catholic Charities	El Programa Hispano PCHIP	\$50,000
Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention Total		\$50,000

GRAND TOTAL		\$1,200,000
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