



## Request for City Council Approval

### **Background**

In November 2002, Portland voters approved the Portland Children's Levy (PCL). The Levy was approved by voters for a five-year renewal in fall 2008 and again in spring 2013. The Levy generates approximately \$10 million annually for programs benefitting Portland children in early childhood, after-school, mentoring, child abuse prevention and intervention, foster care and hunger relief. Administrative costs for the fund are capped at 5% of revenues and the fund obtains annual audits to assure compliance with the administrative cap. A copy of the 2013 ballot language for the Children's Levy is attached as "Exhibit A: Children's Levy 2013 Ballot Language."

An Allocation Committee governs the PCL 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 (Deborah Kafoury), a representative of the Portland Business Alliance (Mitch Hornecker), a citizen member appointed by the County Board (Serena Stoudamire-Wesley), and a citizen member appointed by the City Council (Julie S. Young).

In 2013, PCL began planning for a 2014 competitive funding process in all program areas. An extensive public input process was conducted to identify community needs, and priority populations/geographies. Using the results of the public input process, and local data on children, the Committee held a series of public meetings in which it considered and decided on overall goals for the Levy, goals for investments in each program area, and specific strategies it would seek to fund through the competitive process. These goals and strategies were included in the funding applications approved by the Committee for publication in early 2014. Based on the city economist's revenue projections issued in January 2014, the Committee allocated, and City Council approved grants totaling \$32,881,078 over three years (FY 2015-FY 2017) in May and June of 2014. A list of approved three-year grants is attached as Exhibit B: Portland Children's Levy, Three Year Grant Awards, FY 2015 - FY 2017.

### **Additional Revenues**

In January 2015, the city economist updated revenue estimates for PCL for fiscal years 2015-2017. He projected PCL will have an additional \$8.1 million available for grants over this time period. After discussion and public input, the Allocation Committee decided to allocate the additional funding starting in FY 2016 to allow time to make the allocation decisions in the

remainder of FY 2015. In a series of public meetings, the Committee voted to allocate the additional revenues as described below.

#### **Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Current Grantees**

When funds have been available in the past, PCL has given grantees a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to account for the effects of inflation in providing services. With additional funds available again, the Committee voted to provide a COLA of 2.0% per year for current grantees for the two remaining years of current contracts. The total investment in the COLA is \$465,000 over two years.

#### **Early Childhood Initiatives**

PCL has prioritized early childhood investments since its inception based on considerable and ongoing research that shows investing early provides the greatest level of return in child outcomes, and the best chance to reduce eventual disparities in outcomes for children of color. During the first levy period, the Committee invested a third of total revenues in early childhood programming in the competitive grant process, and also invested in child abuse prevention/intervention programs specifically aimed at families with children aged 5 and under. When revenues exceeded projections during the first levy, the Committee voted to start a child care initiative to subsidize the cost of quality care for low income parents, and to improve the quality of care low income families could access. Professional evaluators of the child care initiative concluded that the efforts resulted in improved stability of child care arrangements for children from low income families, and improved quality of care.

When additional revenues became available in January 2015, the Allocation Committee once again voted to prioritize investment in early childhood programming. Specifically, they voted to re-start PCL's Community Childcare Initiative (which had been discontinued in FY 2012 due to a sharp decline in revenues that year), and to increase the availability of Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten slots in Portland where providers typically have long waiting lists of eligible children. PCL has funded Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten slots since its inception; the additional funds simply increase the number of children served. The Committee voted to make a \$2 million, four-year commitment to re-start the child care initiative to assure adequate time for start-up, ongoing enrollment and service over the remainder of the current levy. They voted to invest \$2.5 million over two years in increasing Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten slots, with the intent to renew the investment for the remaining two years of the levy assuming similar revenue levels, and that grantees meet performance requirements. Grantees and grant amounts are listed in Exhibit C.

#### **Additional Investments in Current Grantees**

The Committee also voted to consider investing additional revenues in currently funded programming for several reasons. Most current grantees did not receive the full amount requested in the 2014 funding process. In many cases, Committee members wanted to invest more funding in particular programs, but were constrained by available resources and the desire to assure that PCL funded particular types of services, or services for particular populations within a given program area. The Committee asked staff to analyze current grants

in terms of the following factors to determine whether and by how much to increase current grants:

- Percent of request awarded
- Percent of staff recommended funding amount awarded
- Whether Committee members indicated an interest in funding the program at a higher level than was ultimately awarded in the 2014 funding process
- For continuing grantees, the relationship of the current annual funding level to the funding level in FY 2011 which was the year before most grantees experienced significant funding cuts due to a sharp decline in revenues
- For continuing grantees, the relationship of the current annual funding to the funding level in FY 2014 which was the final year of the previous levy
- Grant performance to date including percent of budget expended
- Whether the program is culturally specific
- Whether the program serves East Portland
- Whether the application was high scoring

Using these factors, the Committee voted to increase investment in current grants where the greatest number of compelling factors were present. Grantees and the amounts of the grant increases are listed Exhibit C and total \$1,004,000 million over two years.

#### **Reconsideration of Unfunded Applicants in the 2014 Funding Round**

The Committee asked staff to review unfunded applicants using the same factors listed above. The Committee also considered other policy factors including the Levy wide goal of investing at least 30% of resources in each program area in culturally specific programs, the percentage of total PCL revenues invested in each program area as compared to initial goals, and the overall goal of limiting the number of additional grants due to administrative cost. The Committee voted to fund seven unfunded applications, all of which scored highly, some of which Committee members had wanted to fund in the 2014 round where resources were more limited, three of which provide culturally specific services, and three of which predominantly serve residents of East Portland. Grantees and grant amounts are listed in Exhibit C and total \$1,422,667 million over two years.

#### **Training, Technical Assistance and Quality Improvement Fund**

In the past, the Committee has authorized funding for grantee training and professional development, evaluation technical assistance and consultation, and peer-to-peer learning events. Both staff and grantees have noted the need for ongoing training on a variety of topics including the following:

- Evaluation technical assistance including consideration of methods and tools to assess social-emotional competencies that are linked to academic achievement, and training in new early childhood assessment tools
- Consideration and possible use of the Youth Program Quality Assessment for youth development programs
- Training on a variety of topics that cross program areas such as trauma informed practice and cultural responsiveness

- Addressing significantly higher grantee staff turnover rates in child abuse prevention/intervention and foster care programs
- Excel training
- Peer-to-peer learning events

In recognition of these needs, and the importance of quality practice in achieving outcomes for children and families, the Committee voted to allocate \$500,000 over the remaining 4 years of the current levy to funding training, technical assistance and quality improvement efforts. Staff will seek Committee approval of specific plans after consultation with grantees.

#### **System Building and Supporting System Partners**

PCL works with various system partners on policy and service coordination including the All Hands Raised partnership, the SUN Service system, Early Learning Multnomah, Youth Development Funders Roundtable, Early Childhood Funders Roundtable, and a newly formed group working on child abuse prevention called Elevating Prevention. Staff provided information on current work with these partners and requested that the Committee set aside some funding to contribute to system building efforts on an as-needed basis because these efforts share goals similar to Levy goals, and, in some cases, substantially coordinate service efforts and outcome measurement. The Committee voted to allocate \$200,000 over the remaining 4 years of the current levy and to consider specific proposals as needs arise.

#### **Summary of Investments**

Taking into account funding decisions made in 2014 and 2015, the percentage of grant funds invested in each program area is as follows:

Early Childhood	37%
Child Abuse Prevention/Intervention	19%
After-School	17%
Foster Care	10%
Mentoring	9%
Hunger Relief	8%

Of the grant funds projected to be available over the first three years of the current levy, PCL has invested as follows:

- 38% in culturally specific services;
- 36% in services for children/families living or going to school east of 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave.;
- .6% in training, professional development, quality improvement;
- .25% in system building and supporting system partners.

#### **Request for City Council Approval**

PCL is requesting that City Council accept these recommendations of the Allocation Committee to fund the investments in the amounts detailed in Exhibit C.

## **Exhibit A: 2013 Children's Levy Ballot Measure**

### **Ballot Language for PCL Renewal in May 2013**

**Question:** Shall Portland continue abuse, neglect prevention, children's programs; five-year levy \$0.4026 per \$1,000 assessed value beginning 2014; require audits? This measure renews current local option taxes.

#### **Summary:**

Renews the Portland Children's Levy; supports proven programs designed to prevent childhood hunger, prevent child abuse and neglect, help children arrive at school ready to learn, provide safe constructive after-school alternatives for kids and help foster children succeed.

Funds can only be used for:

- **Preventing childhood hunger:** giving hungry children healthy, nutritious meals and food.
- **Child abuse prevention and intervention:** addressing juvenile crime, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse, homeless youth.
- **Early childhood programs:** making childcare more affordable and preparing children for success in school.
- **After-school, summer and mentoring programs:** promoting academic achievement, reducing the number of juveniles victimized by crime, increasing graduation rates.
- **Children in foster care programs:** helping foster children who have been abused and neglected succeed.

Accountability measures include:

- Investments subject to annual audits.
- Programs funded must be cost effective and have a proven record of success.
- Investments subject to oversight by a citizen committee.
- Administrative costs cannot exceed 5 percent.

It is estimated the levy will raise an average of \$10.56 million per year for five years.

**Exhibit B**  
**Portland Children's Levy**  
**Three Year Grant Awards**

<b>FY 2015-FY2017</b>		
<b>Hunger Relief</b>		
<b>Grantee Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Meals on Wheels	Children's Levy Program	\$ 1,347,629
Oregon Food Bank	School Food Pantries	\$ 1,282,857
	<b>Hunger Relief Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,630,486</b>

<b>Mentoring</b>		
<b>Grantee Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Campfire Columbia	Middle School Program	\$ 800,000
Friends of the Children	Friends of the Children Mentoring	\$ 1,400,000
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization	Refugee & Immigrant Mentoring	\$ 615,000
Native American Youth & Family Center	Mentoring Program	\$ 425,000
Rosemary Anderson High School/ Portland OIC	Mentoring Program	\$ 376,919
	<b>Mentoring Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,616,919</b>

<b>After School</b>		
<b>Grantee Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Boys & Girls Clubs	SUN Schools	\$ 150,000
Metropolitan Family Service	SUN Schools	\$ 300,000
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization	SUN Schools	\$ 300,000
Ethos Music Center	Music Corps	\$ 250,000
Girls, Inc.	Girls Groups	\$ 150,000
Hacienda CDC	Expresiones	\$ 400,000
Human Solutions	Learn Links	\$ 300,000
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization	INSPIRE	\$ 800,000
Impact Northwest	AKA Science	\$ 177,000
Impact Northwest	Urban Opportunities	\$ 171,000
Native American Youth & Family Center	After School Program	\$ 400,000
Neighborhood House	Hayhurst/Steven's Crossing	\$ 200,000
Open Meadow	Step Up	\$ 1,000,000
Playworks	Junior Coach Leadership Program	\$ 195,000
Saturday Academy	After School Program	\$ 212,000
Self Enhancement, Inc.	After School Program	\$ 1,000,000
	<b>After School Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,005,000</b>

**Exhibit B**  
**Portland Children's Levy**  
**Three Year Grant Awards**

187274

FY 2015-FY2017 Early Childhood		
Grantee Agency	Program	Grant Amount
Albina Head Start	Early Head Start	\$ 1,400,000
Friendly House	Preschool	\$ 190,000
Hacienda CDC	Portland Niños	\$ 460,000
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization	Child & Parent Success	\$ 760,000
Impact Northwest	Parent Child Development Services	\$ 530,000
Latino Network	Juntos Aprendemos	\$ 750,000
Metropolitan Family Service	Ready, Set, Go	\$ 245,000
Morrison Child & Family Center	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	\$ 1,450,000
Morrison Child & Family Center	Listos para Aprender	\$ 1,050,000
Mt Hood Commty College	Early Head Start	\$ 877,000
Native American Youth & Family Center	Early Childhood Program Services	\$ 450,000
Neighborhood House	Early Oregon PreKindergarten	\$ 880,000
Peninsula Children's LearningCenter	Early Childhood Education	\$ 460,000
Portland Public Schools	Head Start	\$ 820,000
	<b>Early Childhood Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,322,000</b>

Foster Care		
Grantee Agency	Program	Grant Amount
Boys & Girls Aid	Permanency Recruitment Project	\$ 150,000
Friends of the Children	Friends of the Children	\$ 429,946
Impact Northwest	Safe & Together	\$ 616,146
Janus Youth Programs	Insights Teen Parent Program ECHO	\$ 475,000
Native American Youth & Family Center	Foster Care Program	\$ 633,309
New Avenues for Youth	Avenues to College	\$ 350,000
Self Enhancement, Inc.	Foster Care Program	\$ 645,000
Youth, Rights & Justice	School Works	\$ 525,000
	<b>Foster Care Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,824,401</b>

Exhibit B  
 Portland Children's Levy  
 Three Year Grant Awards

187274

FY 2015-FY2017 Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention		
Grantee Agency	Program	Grant Amount
Bradley Angle House	Family Advocacy Project	\$ 240,000
Catholic Charities	Parent Child Involvement Project	\$ 460,000
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization	Refugee & Immigrant CAPI	\$ 450,000
Janus Youth Programs	SEEDS	\$ 510,000
Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center	CARES NW - Child Abuse Intervention Program	\$ 560,000
Lifeworks Northwest	Children's Relief Nursery	\$ 1,300,000
Lifeworks Northwest	Family & Community Alliance	\$ 431,250
Metropolitan Family Service	Nurturing Parenting	\$ 290,000
Native American Youth & Family Center	CAPI Services	\$ 450,000
Pathfinders of Oregon	Center for Family Success	\$ 690,000
Salvation Army	Parent Child Involvement Project	\$ 150,000
Volunteers of America	Home Free	\$ 307,500
Volunteers of America	Family Relief Nursery	\$ 293,522
Volunteers of America	Miracles Relief Nursery	\$ 350,000
	<b>Child Abuse Prevention &amp; Intervention Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,482,272</b>

<b>Total All Grants</b>	<b>\$ 32,881,078</b>
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# Exhibit C - Portland Children's Levy

2015 Allocations

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Allocation		Amount
Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Current Grantees		\$465,000
Early Childhood Initiatives (Organization: Program)		subtotal \$4,499,000
Mt Hood Community College Childcare Resource & Referral:	Childcare Quality & Affordability Initiative	\$2,000,000
Albina Head Start:	Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten	\$1,326,000
Mt Hood Community College:	Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten	\$810,000
Portland Public Schools:	Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten	\$363,000
Additional Funding for 2014 Grantees		subtotal \$1,004,000
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization:	INSPIRE After-School Program	\$100,000
Human Solutions:	Learn Links After-School Program	\$112,000
Saturday Academy:	After School Program	\$75,000
Impact NW:	Safe & Together Foster Care Program	\$40,000
Pathfinders of Oregon:	Center for Family Success	\$50,000
Salvation Army West Women's Shelter:	Parent Child Involvement Program	\$115,000
Boys & Girls Aid:	Permanency Recruitment Project	\$100,000
Native American Youth & Family Center:	After School Program	\$60,000
Self Enhancement, Inc.:	After School Program	\$150,000
Lifeworks Northwest:	Family and Community Alliance	\$40,000
Impact NW:	aka Science After-School Program	\$50,000
New Avenues for Youth:	Avenues to College	\$50,000
Impact NW:	Urban Opportunities After-School Program	\$62,000
Additional Grants to 2014 Unfunded Applicants		subtotal \$1,422,667
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization:	Hunger Relief Program	\$225,000
Metropolitan Family Services:	Healthy Schools/Communities Hunger Relief	\$200,000
Janus Youth Programs:	Village Gardens Hunger Relief	\$166,667
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center:	Young Parenting	\$233,000
Self Enhancement, Inc.:	Intensive Parenting Program	\$233,000
Impact NW:	Parent Child Involvement Project	\$185,000
College Possible:	David Douglas High School Mentoring Program	\$180,000
Training/Technical Assistance/Quality Improvement		\$500,000
System Building/Supporting System Partners		\$200,000
GRAND TOTAL		\$8,090,667