

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Portland State University to conduct qualitative research on the Portland Children's Levy grantmaking process and to identify needs, solutions and recommendations to improve its grantmaking process (Ordinance).

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Presenter name: n/a (consent agenda)

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

In preparation for future grantmaking of the Children's Levy reauthorized by voters in May 2018, the Levy's Allocation Committee allocated up to \$150,000 in the current levy to solicit proposals for two separate efforts: a) creating and implementing extensive community engagement to identify future Levy funding priorities, and b) designing and implementing a qualitative research study resulting in recommendations to improve Levy grantmaking process. In past years Portland Children's Levy staff have conducted these processes. Levy staff recommended, and the Allocation Committee agreed, to solicit external consultants for these efforts. PCL staff worked with city Procurement to solicit proposals for Professional, Technical, and Expert services.

Under Solicitation 00000964, an Intermediate Request for Proposals for Grantmaking Process Improvement Needs and Solutions for Portland Children's Levy, Portland State University's Center for Improvement was the highest scoring proposer. The project will use qualitative research methods to study PCL's grantmaking process from the perspective of past applicants, funded and unfunded, and other stakeholders. Researchers will report their findings and make recommendations to the Levy's Allocation Committee during winter 2019.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

There are no costs to the City general fund. Children's Levy revenues are generated by a special property tax levy and the Children's Levy proposes to use a portion of the proceeds of the levy to fund the PTE services outlined above.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This small project impacts the community by involving past Levy funding applicants, both those that have received funding and those that have not, in identifying strengths, challenges, opportunities for improvements in the Levy grantmaking process. The Levy received 115 applications in its last large round of competitive grantmaking in 2014. On average, Levy funding annually supports over 70 programs at over 40 community-based organizations and serves over 11,000 children. This project will use qualitative research methods such as interviews and focus groups, led by technical experts, to elicit and analyze feedback gathered from a sample of those programs/organizations, and from unfunded applicants and potential future applicants. The project will look at experiences of equity in the process, including but not limited to culturally specific and mainstream applicants, applicants serving East Portland and other areas of Portland, applicant organizations of varying sizes (i.e. annual budget revenues). This project will help the Levy's Allocation Committee consider opportunities to improve its grantmaking process, leading to greater community impact with future Levy funding overall.

100% Renewable Goal:

N/A

Budgetary Impact Worksheet**Does this action change appropriations?**☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.x **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount