

City of Portland Innovation Fund: Innovation Project Profile

Project Title: XML Data Sharing Pilot Program (Portland Housing Bureau)

1. Project Need:

Property management companies and nonprofit agency partners are using redundant systems to collect housing data; this drives up cost for partners and decreases the quality of data and service that Portland Housing Bureau receives. Property management companies that manage PHB regulated housing report information in Excel as well as hand-enter data into a PHB web-based database, duplicating their data entry. Faith-based organizations struggle to consistently report information into PHB's web-based database due to limited staff capacity.

2. Project Description and Scope:

Portland Housing Bureau will contract with an XML programmer to set up protocols for the XML pilot procedure. The programmer and PHB will translate the Excel information currently used by property management companies to their XML schema and document the process.

Separately, PHB will work with faith-based agencies to put necessary data sharing agreements in place. Starting with one partner, PHB and the programmer will translate this partner agency system data to their XML schema and document the process. PHB will repeat the process with two more selected faith-based agencies.

3. Public Service Benefit Contributing to the Common Good:

XML schema will be replicated and sustained between private and nonprofit partners; better quality affordable housing and homeless data will better inform public policy on the local and regional level.

4. Client or End User Receiving Benefits from Project (Who is Benefitting):

Private property management companies and nonprofit agencies realize cost savings to upload of housing data. Portland Housing Bureau receives higher quality and more complete data from its partners.

5. Innovative Components of Project:

A systemic automated data input system for PHB's contracted partners will improve the fidelity, integrity, and timing of pertinent housing data.

6. Sponsor(s):

Primary – Traci Manning, Director, Portland Housing Bureau

Secondary – N/A

7. Resource Person(s):

Primary – Leslie Goodlow, Business Operations Manager, Portland Housing Bureau

Secondary – Antoinette Pietka, Business Analysis, Research, and IT

8. Other Relevant Information:

\$48,000 appropriated for XML programming (200 hr), uploading, and documentation.