



Leverage Fund Process

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

July 8, 2010



Challenge Grants

- Allocation Committee allocated \$2.5 million of the total \$3 million in leverage funds to challenge grants.
- Challenge grants require applicants for PCL funding to match PCL funds 1:1 with funds from foundations, corporations and other sources.



Application Process

- PCL issued Challenge Grant Requests for Investment (RFI) in all 5 PCL Program areas on March 5, 2010.
- RFIs were the same as those used for competitive PCL grants and also required inclusion of a Leverage Plan.
- PCL received 40 applications requesting \$16,070,234 million in funding.



Leverage Plan Requirements

- At least 50% of matching funds required to be cash.
- No more than 50% of matching funds allowed as in-kind match.
- Provide documentation for any cash match already received by the applicant.
- Provide a plan for securing the remainder of the required cash match.
- Provide valuation methods for in-kind resources claimed as match.



Application Scores

- Program Score (100 points possible): Average of scores awarded by panels of 3 volunteer reviewers.
- Leverage Plan Score (25 points possible): Staff scored leverage plans based on a rubric and cross-checked to be sure plans with similar characteristics were scored similarly.
- Bonus Points (6 points possible): Staff awarded 3 points for applicants predominantly serving east of 82nd Ave., and 3 points for culturally specific programs.



Staff Funding Recommendations

- Includes rationales for recommendation not to fund some relatively high scoring applications.
- Overall concern evident in staff recommendations and rationales relates to cash leverage from school districts, county and state government because of serious current and projected cuts to the budgets of these sources.
- Significant staff and reviewer concern about funding case management and youth development programs that applied as “mentoring” programs due to high child to staff ratios, and lack of “matching” youth to particular adults.



Conditional Awards...

- Successful applicants have specified time periods in which to raise planned matching funds and to provide verification for in-kind match.
- If applicants are not successful in meeting these requirements, funds allocated to those proposals will return to the leverage fund for re-allocation by the committee.