



## Request for Multnomah County Board Acceptance

### **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 and 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. A copy of the 2008 ballot language for the Children's Levy is attached as Exhibit A.

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 (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 County Board Acceptance**

PCL is requesting that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners accept the recommendation of the Allocation Committee Collaboration Grant investments made through its Leverage Fund in the amounts specified in the table in "Exhibit B: Leverage Fund Collaboration Grant Awards and Portfolio Rationale". Rationale for investing in that grant portfolio are included in Exhibit B, following the table.

### **Leverage Fund Collaboration Grant Funding Process Background**

At the January 15, 2010 Allocation Committee meeting, the Committee voted to use \$500,000 of the Leverage Fund for Collaboration Grants. These grants are funder-initiated partnerships on projects in any of the five program areas. The Allocation Committee authorized formation of a Collaboration Committee to further define how the collaboration grant process would go forward. Staff and Committee member, Alissa Keny-Guyer, worked to assemble a committee of funders and individuals in the funding community to help seek out and develop projects for Collaboration Grants. Collaboration Committee members include: Alissa Keny-Guyer, Suk Rhee (Northwest Health Foundation), Mark Holloway (Social Venture Partners Portland), Howard Klink and Colin McCormack (United Way), and Sue Hildick (Chalkboard Project). Projects can include capacity building, service system improvements, or direct services.

## **Collaboration Grants Framework and Grant Guidelines**

The Collaboration Committee has met monthly since March to establish a framework for considering collaboration grant opportunities and to discuss potential collaboration projects. The committee's framework serves as a set of criteria for screening collaborative projects and deciding whether to recommend them to the Allocation Committee for funding. The full framework is attached as Exhibit C to this memo, and below is a quick overview:

- *Theory of Change:* consider system-improvements or capacity building efforts that are based on well-developed theory of change
- *Project Preferences:* support projects that can build capacity and lead to system improvement, particularly if projects could benefit existing Levy grants & grantees
- *Innovation/ Evidence of Learning:* seek projects that offer different or more robust lessons learned than Levy's other grants
- *Readiness of Project:* balance portfolio between projects with high momentum & due diligence by funders and projects with high potential but not yet with significant attention from funders
- *Leverage Potential:* weigh the amount & type of money and partnerships leveraged
- *Grant Size:* think of aiming for 4 – 5 funding relationships regardless of size

Apart from the Framework, there are a handful of other guidelines for the Collaboration Grants, including:

- Funded projects must include at least one other funder apart from the Children's Levy
- Eligible Activities:
  - Organizational capacity building: projects that improve the capacity for an organization(s) to deliver quality services;
  - System Improvement Efforts: activities that improve alignment among systems to make service utilization and/or service provision in our community more efficient and effective.
  - Program services: direct services to children/families: keeping in mind that 96% of the Levy's grant funds go toward direct services (approx \$12 million per year), staff recommends that the Collaboration Committee seek out projects that address capacity building or systems improvement.