



## 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 to fund a Collaboration Grant investments made through its Leverage Fund in the amount \$100,000 over three years for the Trauma Recovery Services for High Need Families project, led by Portland State University's Regional Research Institute.

### **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 B 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.

## **Brief Summary of Trauma Recovery Services for High Need Families project**

- Portland State University's Regional Research Institute is the applicant, in partnership with Impact NW and Catholic Charities.
- Gates Foundation has agreed to provide \$225,000 of funding over three years (match of 2.25 : 1 for Levy dollars), conditioned on PSU raising local matching funds. Meyer Memorial Trust is also considering funding this project at \$225,000 over three years but will not decide for at least another month or two. Total potential leverage is 4.5: 1 for Levy.
- Project focuses on providing group psychotherapy and case management services to 30 chronically homeless mothers annually (for 3 years). The mothers have a history of trauma that has significantly impaired their ability to provide for and parent their children. The service model, Trauma Recovery Empowerment Model (TREM) is an evidence-based practice recognized by SAMHSA. The goal of the program is to increase

- The service population is families residing in 2 low-income housing sites in SE Portland, one run by Catholic Charities (Esperanza Court) and the other by Impact NW (Richmond Place). Those partner agencies and sites are involved with the Bridges to Housing project (which has received PCL funds in the past); the families to be served in this model have not been able to successfully engage in the Bridges program due to their extensive trauma histories and its impact on the mothers' lives, including major substance abuse or mental health issues.
- Partner agencies will provide housing and case management to the families (as they do with all Bridges families); Portland State University's Regional Research Institute would provide the TREM model with support from the School of Social Work.
- PSU will also provide training regarding trauma-informed service delivery to partner agencies, and to other agencies who have a role in the families lives, building local capacity among service agencies to provide trauma-informed services.

The Collaboration Committee screened this project against its framework, and it met all criteria as follows:

- TREM model offers a strong and proven Theory of Change; moreover, the capacity building with partner agencies will allow PSU to work with partners to assess their own trauma-informed service delivery and monitor their effectiveness toward that end.
- Project builds service effectiveness capacity of two current Levy grantees (and builds on the lessons learned from past grantee); has attracted Gates & Meyer attention and Gates investment because of an interest to learn better how to serve high-needs families.
- Project will pilot an evidence-based practice that has not been offered in Portland, providing several opportunities for learning and capacity building among other service systems involved with the families (housing, mental health, AOD, and child welfare).
- Much attention has been paid locally to "trauma-informed services" for children, but that same attention has not been directed toward their parents. This project marries both methods and helps stabilize families from both angles.
- Gates funding toward this project is contingent on funding from the Levy (or Meyer Memorial Trust), so this is a true leverage opportunity. In addition, for PSU, this relationship means being part of a distinguished community of grant recipients and a larger network of Gates community grants, in which there are explicit goals regarding sharing lessons learned among grantees and communities. For PCL, this means more opportunities to leverage Gates' due diligence, lessons learned from their grantmaking, and their actual dollars.