

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Accepting the Portland Children's Levy Recommendation to Renew Competitive Grants and to Reduce Leverage Fund Challenge Grant Funding and to Offer Guidance to the City of Portland Concerning the Recommendations

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In 2002 the citizens of the City of Portland authorized a five-year property tax levy to fund proven children's programs within the City.
- b. In November 2008 voters approved a renewal of the local option property tax levy to continue supporting the Portland Children's Levy to make targeted investments in proven programs in early childhood, child abuse prevention and intervention, foster care, after-school and mentoring.
- c. A competitive funding process was held in 2009 for each of the program areas. The Levy's Allocation Committee voted on investments; grants were made for three years and eligible for renewal pending performance and available resources.
- d. In December 2008 the Allocation Committee of the Portland Children's Levy also voted to set aside \$3 million for a Leverage Fund in an effort to leverage additional private and public resources to fund services in PCL's program areas. In June 2010 the Portland Children's Levy awarded funds totaling \$2,500,000 (over four years) for challenge grants to 9 early childhood, child abuse prevention and intervention, and after-school programs.
- e. For the annual period FY12 the Levy investments in competitive grants and Leverage Fund challenge grants totaled approximately \$12.9 million.
- f. In January 2012 the City Economist, Josh Harwood, provided revised revenue projected significant decreases in revenue for the final two years of the levy. The Levy's declining revenue resulted in an average of 27.5% less funding available for all grants for fiscal year 2012/13.
- g. In April 2012 the Allocation Committee voted to renew most competitive grants at reduced funding levels and to discontinue some grants. The Committee voted to reduce funding for Leverage Fund challenge grants and to discontinue one grant. Reductions were necessary to bring grant expenditures in line with revenue projections. The Committee also voted to renew competitive grants for a one-year period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, with the possibility of an additional year of funding in Fiscal Year 2013-14. Renewed competitive grants and revised Leverage Fund grant investments total approximately \$9.3 million for FY13.
- h. The Board of County Commissioners, through its expertise and experience in children's policy and administration, provides the City Council with advice and guidance. In the past the Board has made recommendations regarding allocations for early childhood care and education, for child abuse prevention and intervention programs, services to support children in foster care and for after school and mentoring programs. The Board is now making recommendations to renew competitive grants and to reduce funding for Leverage Fund challenge grants.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Board accepts the attached recommendation and request from the Portland Children's Levy to renew competitive grants for one year period from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 and to reduce Leverage Fund challenge grants.
2. Furthermore, the Board forwards the recommendation, with its own recommendation for adoption, to the Portland City Council for its consideration.

ADOPTED this 17th day of May 2012

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jeff Cogen, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MORF, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
Jenny M. Morf, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:
Jeff Cogen, Multnomah County Chair