

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-013**

Accepting the Portland Children's Levy Allocation Plan and Offering Advice and Counsel 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. In June 2009 the Portland Children's Levy awarded funds totaling \$36,741,286 (over three years) to 69 early childhood, child abuse prevention and intervention, foster care, after-school and mentoring programs.
- d. The Portland Children's Levy has \$1,200,000 (over three years) of additional funds available for allocation.
- e. The City of Portland and Multnomah County entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement to make certain that the funds received from the Levy are allocated in a manner complementary with a coordinated and comprehensive plan, and to ensure accountability and equity throughout the system. As part of the agreement, the City of Portland created the Children's Levy Allocation Committee to provide citizen oversight of the Levy.
- f. Furthermore, the Board of County Commissioners, through its expertise and experience in children's policy and administration, provides the City Council with advice and counsel. 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 make additional investments in after-school, mentoring, early childhood and child abuse prevention and intervention programs.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

1. The Board accepts the attached Allocation Plan of the Allocation Committee for the City of Portland's Children's Levy.
2. Furthermore, the Board forwards the Plan, with its own recommendation for adoption, to the Portland City Council for its consideration.

ADOPTED this 28th day of January, 2010



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By   
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Chair



## **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 (Ted Wheeler), 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 recommendations of the Allocation Committee to fund additional investments in after-school, mentoring, early childhood, and child abuse prevention and intervention programs in the amounts specified in the spreadsheet titled "Exhibit B: Portland Children's Levy – Additional Grant Awards".

### **2009 Competitive Funding Process Background**

After an extensive planning and public input process (May 2008 – January 2009) Requests for Investment in all program areas were published in January 2009 and applications were due in March.

CHIF received 125 applications for funding totaling \$97,178,747 – approximately 2.6 times the funds projected to be available over 3 years. Over 100 community reviewers scored the applications. Public meetings were held to make funding decisions. Committee members made preliminary funding decisions, invited public comment on the preliminary decisions, and then made final funding decisions.

### **Funding Awards**

In June 2009 the Portland Children's Levy awarded funds totaling \$36,741,286 (over three years) to 69 early childhood, child abuse prevention and intervention, foster care, after-school and mentoring programs.

### **Additional Funds**

All funding awards were made as "up to" amounts. After contract negotiations were completed, the total amount contracted was less than the total amount awarded. Additionally, there was a fund balance of program dollars from the previous levy. Consequently, there is \$1,200,000 (over three years) of additional funds available for allocation.

### **Funding Parameters/Priorities**

Given the extensive 2009 competitive funding process, the significant gap between funding requested and funding awarded and the limited amount of available funding, the Allocation Committee decided to allocate the additional funds to programs that participated in the 2009 funding process rather than open a new competitive process.

After hearing public comment regarding proposed funding parameters at the November 13, 2009 meeting, the Allocation Committee set the following parameters/priorities for allocating the additional funds:

- 1) *New (meaning not previously funded by PCL) full service after-school programs.* This was prioritized because it was the most competitive funding category and the demand for new programming in this category significantly exceeded the supply when compared to the other funding categories.
- 2) *Programs that are both new (to PCL) and culturally specific from any funding category.* New programs were prioritized because the bulk of new levy funds (87%) went to fund continuing programming despite the fact that 42% of the total funding requested was for new programming. Culturally specific programs were prioritized to reflect a similar priority in the original Request for Investments and to preserve the percentage of overall PCL funds invested in culturally specific programs.
- 3) *Increasing current grants to culturally specific programs only, in any funding category.* This would help achieve the goal of increasing investment in culturally specific programming.

### **Funding Decisions**

Staff provided Allocation Committee members with summarized application data sheets, aggregated funding slates from the previous funding rounds, a list of 2009 funding awards and staff recommendations for funding. Allocation Committee members submitted individual slates for funding to staff prior to the funding meeting, and staff aggregated the individual slates to determine the level of agreement/disagreement on funding individual applications.

A public meeting was held on December 14, 2009 to make funding decisions. Decisions were made starting with applications all Committee members wanted to fund and proceeding to applications with lower levels of Committee support for funding. Committee members made preliminary funding decisions, invited public comment on the preliminary decisions, and then made final funding decisions.

## **Exhibit A: 2008 Children's Levy Ballot Measure**

### **Measure 26-94**

Renew five-year levy for Children's Investment Fund

#### **Question**

Shall Portland continue supporting child abuse prevention, foster children, early childhood, after-school programs, renewing five-year levy starting 2009? This measure may cause property taxes to increase by more than 3 percent.

#### **Summary**

Measure would continue financing Children's Investment Fund to support proven programs designed to help children arrive at school ready to learn, provide safe and constructive after-school alternatives for kids, helps foster children and prevent child abuse and neglect and family violence.

This Children's Investment Fund can only be used for:

- Child abuse prevention and intervention, addressing juvenile crime, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse and homeless youth.
- Early childhood programs making childcare more affordable and prepare children for success in school.
- After-school, summer and mentoring programs: promoting academic achievement, reducing the number of juveniles victimized by crime and increasing graduation rates.
- Children in foster care programs: helping foster children succeed who have been abused and neglected.

Accountability measures include:

- Programs funded must be cost effective and have a proven record of success.
- Investment fund subject to oversight by a citizen committee
- Investment fund subject to annual audits.
- Administrative costs cannot exceed 5 percent.

Levy is \$0.4026 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and produces an estimated \$14 million per year for five years.

**Exhibit B:  
Portland Children's Levy  
Additional Grant Awards December 2009**

<b>After School Programs</b>		
<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Funding Awarded</b>
Metropolitan Family Services	Harold Oliver Primary SUN	\$209,090
Campfire USA	David Douglas - 1 SUN School Site	\$209,090
Friendly House	Project Return	\$137,500
Northwest Family Services	Latino Family Empowerment Project	\$243,247
<b>After School Total</b>		<b>\$798,927</b>

<b>Mentoring Programs</b>		
<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Funding Awarded</b>
IRCO	African Immigrant Mentoring	\$160,073
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center	POIC Mentoring	\$125,000
<b>Mentoring Total</b>		<b>\$285,073</b>

<b>Early Childhood Programs</b>		
<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Funding Awarded</b>
Latino Network	Juntos Aprendemos	\$66,000
<b>Early Childhood Total</b>		<b>\$66,000</b>

<b>Child Abuse Prevention &amp; Intervention Programs</b>		
<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Funding Awarded</b>
Catholic Charities	El Programa Hispano PCHIP	\$50,000
<b>Child Abuse Prevention &amp; Intervention Total</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,200,000</b>