



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(revised 12/31/09)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 5/17/12
Agenda Item #: R.4
Est. Start Time: 11:15 am
Date Submitted: 5/1/12

Agenda Title: **RESOLUTION 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.**

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: May 17, 2012 Amount of Time Needed: 15 minutes
Department: Non-departmental Division: Commissioner Kafoury
Contact(s): Liz Smith Currie
Phone: 503.988.4435 Ext. 8-4435 I/O Address: 503/6
Presenter(s): Meg McElroy, Assistant Director, Portland Children's Levy

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval of Resolution to accept Portland Children's Levy (PCL) recommendation and to recommend adoption to Portland City Council.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

The Portland Children's Levy was authorized by Portland voters in 2002 and renewed in Fall 2008 for an additional five years to fund proven children's programs within the City. The ballot language authorizing the Children's Levy requires that investments be made in early childhood programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, programs for children in foster care, and after-school and mentoring programs.

PCL is requesting that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners accept the recommendation of the Allocation Committee to renew grant investments and to reduce Leverage Fund challenge grant investments in the amounts outlined in the attached memo entitled "Request for County Board Acceptance".

After the Levy was renewed, a competitive funding process was held in 2009 for each of the program areas. Investments were made for 3 years and eligible for renewal pending performance and available resources. In addition, during June 2010 the Allocation Committee of PCL 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.

In January 2012 the City Economist, Josh Harwood, provided revised revenue projections for the Levy for the current year and the final 2 years of the current levy. He projected significant decreases in revenue for the final two years of the levy. The steep reductions are the result of a depressed housing market and compression of city property tax collections brought about by lower real market property values. In addition, he asserted there is significant uncertainty in the projections for FY 2014. Depending on what happens with the Multnomah County Library District and real market values of properties in Portland, revenues for the final year could be \$1 million less than currently projected.

In order to prepare the Allocation Committee for grant renewal and Leverage Fund grant reduction decisions, staff provided the Committee with renewal recommendations based on individual grant performance and other policy considerations as outlined in the attached Memo.

At public meetings held on April 9, 2012 and April 16, 2012, the Allocation Committee made decisions to renew most competitive grants at funding levels lower than current year grant amounts and to discontinue some grants. Along with grant renewal decisions, the Committee also voted to reduce funding for Leverage Fund challenge grants and to discontinue one grant. The Committee used many but not all of the policies recommended by staff to make their decisions. The list of investments and their renewal amounts is provided with this request (Exhibit B to the Memo). The total reduction in levy investments for the next fiscal year was \$3.5 million. All of these reductions were necessary to bring grant expenditures in line with revenue projections.

The Committee also decided to renew the 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. The city economist should be able to provide better revenue projections in January 2013, at which time the Allocation Committee can determine how to proceed for the FY 2013-14 funding year.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

No fiscal impact to County.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

No legal issues involved; supports policies previously set by the Board.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

This is a multi-jurisdictional effort that has involved community stakeholders.

Required Signature

**Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director:**



Date: May 1, 2012