



Invest a Minute

Allocation Committee Meeting Summary: April 13th, 2009
Portland City Hall Council Chambers, 1221 SW 4th Ave.

Members:

Present: Allocation Committee Chair and Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman; Alissa Keny-Guyer, consultant for foundations and nonprofits; Adrienne Livingston, executive director of the Black United Fund of Oregon; and Ron Beltz representing the Portland Business Alliance. Absent: Multnomah County Commission Chair Ted Wheeler.

Background:

The bulk of CHIF grants will expire June 30, 2009, with new ones beginning July 1, 2009. The city economist is projecting average annual revenues of between \$12 and \$14 million for the first three years of the levy.

Allocation Committee funding decision meetings for the new funding round are:*

1 to 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 18th: Funding meeting for After-School and Mentoring programs.

2:30 to 6 p.m., Monday, June 1st: Funding meeting for Child Abuse Prevention/Intervention and Foster Care programs.

1 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 9th: Funding meeting for Early Childhood programs.

All of the above Allocation Committee meetings will be in City Hall Council Chambers. Agendas will be posted on the CHIF website a few days before the meetings and e-mail reminders will be sent out as well. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

(*For grant readers, please note that your scheduled review meetings with your small groups to review grant applications are **separate** from the Allocation Committee meetings listed above. You are not required to attend the Allocation Committee meetings.)

Action:

√The committee approved an allocation methodology for SUN schools recommended by the SUN Coordinating Council. The council has been working for about two years to coordinate service delivery among SUN partners to make the system more efficient, accountable and equitable. The new allocation model, to be used by SUN funders such as Multnomah County, Portland Parks and Recreation and CHIF, assures a rational, consistent and more equitable distribution of resources based on community needs.

Under the new methodology, resources allocated to SUN schools will be based primarily on poverty. A "Poverty Index" ranks schools according to numbers of/and percentages of students participating in Free and Reduced Lunch. Schools are then divided into quartiles, and those in the top two quartiles would be funded at 100 percent, while those in the bottom two quartiles would be funded at 75 percent, with student fees or other funding sources making up the difference.

The system assures an equitable geographical spread of services throughout the county since it allocates a base level of services for all high school catchments when the high school is in the top three quartiles of the Poverty Index.

The new methodology could affect both the level of future CHIF funding to SUN sites and which sites are selected for that funding.

√The committee OK'd a request from the Portland Schools Foundation for letters of support to solicit funding as it continues its Connected by 25 and Ninth Grade Counts initiatives aimed at reducing Portland's high school dropout rate.

Discussion:

√The FY 2007-08 CHIF Audit by independent auditor McDonald Jacobs found that administrative expenses were less than 5 percent, were necessary and proper, and all grant disbursements were properly documented in accordance with approved budgets.

√ In a CHIF funding process update, staff noted that a total of 126 applications are requesting \$96.6 million over three years of an available \$36.7 million (or about \$2.60 for every \$1 available.) Applications have been distributed to reviewers, who will read and score each application using a rubric that outlines the evaluation criteria from the Request for Investments. After discussing the scores in panel groups with reviewers, CHIF staff will average the scores and present them to the Allocation Committee. Committee members will develop a final slate of applicants they wish to fund in preparation for discussion and a vote at each of the funding committee meetings listed above (May 18th, June 1st and June 9th).

Other:

●If you missed the Allocation Committee meeting, watch it on Portland Cable Channel 30 at: Tuesday, April 21st at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 26th at 3 p.m.

You can also view it on Portland Online:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/index.cfm?c=28260&a=239918>

(Real Player Enterprise required.) To download:

http://media.ci.portland.or.us/download_real_player.htm

●The Children's Investment Fund was created by Portland voters in 2002 and renewed as the Children's Levy by the city electorate in Fall 2008. The Fund is supported through a five-year levy projected to annually generate more than \$12 million during the next few years toward proven programs across the city in areas of early childhood, after school, mentoring, child abuse prevention and intervention and foster care.

The Investment Fund is annually audited and administrative costs do not exceed 5 percent.

Questions? Contact: mgbroderick@ci.portland.or.us

See our website at www.childrensinvestmentfund.org