



Invest a Minute

Allocation Committee Meeting Summary: Jan. 26th, 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 Multnomah County Commission Chair Ted Wheeler. Absent: Ron Beltz representing the Portland Business Alliance.

Background:

The CHIF staff and the Allocation Committee had several meetings during November and December to gather input on important funding decisions as CHIF moves forward. 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.

Action:

✓ The Allocation Committee approved staff recommendations for the Foster Care Request for Investment (RFI). The RFI is available online for downloading from the CHIF website homepage at: <http://www.childrensinvestmentfund.org/funding/>

The web link to the RFI has been sent to the CHIF e-mail database as well.

Main components in the approved Foster Care RFI, due March 9th, are included below.

Foster Care RFI Guidelines

- Annual individual investment request per application (not organization) capped at \$550,000; annual minimum investment request: \$30,000.
- 36-month grant duration, from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012
--Some programs may be eligible for funding under the objectives of more than one program area, (for instance, Foster Care and Child Abuse Prevention/Intervention). To the extent this is the case, organizations may submit the same application in response to more than one RFI. The proposal will be scored only once and will be funded only once, but if not funded in the first round in which it is considered, will be considered again for funding.
- Programs should directly serve children and youth ages birth through 24 that are in foster care, or who have aged out of foster care, and their biological families and/or foster families.

The age range for this funding area was extended because services for young adults aging out of the foster care system were a high priority in the public input process conducted by CHIF last year. Youth who were formerly in foster care face unique challenges in making a successful transition into adulthood as they grapple with poverty, under-employment and a lack of education. A large number of these youth have special needs including mental health issues and both learning and physical disabilities.

RFI Recommended Priorities include:

- Culturally specific services, especially for Native American and African American children, to address over-representation of children of color in the child welfare system.

- Educational support networks, especially during major school transitions.
- Services that help maintain placement stability.
- Mental health services.
- Services for youth aging out of foster care.
- Approaches that move children out of foster care sooner.
- Quality visitation services for foster children with their biological parents and siblings to support successful reunification.
- Mentoring.
- Therapeutic daycare centers and preschools.
- Foster care therapeutic interventions.
- Infant-focused interventions focusing on attachment.
- Prevention education.
- Enrichment activities.

✓**Brief overview of funding process calendar:**

- ▶ Two Bidders Conferences are scheduled at the Portland Building Auditorium (2nd Floor): Tuesday, Feb. 3rd, 9 to 10 a.m., and Monday, Feb. 9th, noon to 1 p.m.
- ▶ Applications due in early March.
- ▶ Applications scored by committees of volunteer reviewers.
- ▶ Allocation Committee meetings to award grants in late May and early June.

Other: CHIF is looking for volunteer grant readers to score RFIs. If interested, please e-mail mgbroderick@ci.portland.or.us

- If you missed the Allocation Committee meeting, watch it on Portland Cable Channel 30 at these times: Thursday, Jan. 29th at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 1st at 6 p.m.; and Thursday, Feb. 5th at 6 p.m.

You can also view it on Portland Online:

<http://rs1.media.ci.portland.or.us:2259/ramgen/archives2/chif012609.rm>

(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