



Invest a Minute

Allocation Committee Meeting Summary: Nov. 14th, 2008
Portland Building, 1120 SW Fifth Ave., Second Floor Auditorium

Members:

Present: Allocation Committee Chair and Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman; Ron Beltz, a businessman who represents the Portland Business Alliance; 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.

Saltzman thanked the Children's Levy many volunteers and supporters, as well as Portland voters, for renewing the Children's Investment Fund for an additional five years. The Allocation Committee will be having several meetings during November and December to make important funding decisions as CHIF moves forward. New funding of programs begins July 2009.

Discussion:

●Public Input Summary

Staff gave an overview of seven months of discussions with nearly 25 policy groups and the general public regarding community needs, trends and system issues in CHIF program areas, as well as how to best allocate resources among those areas. Some general themes that emerged were: an increased need for services in East Portland and for culturally-specific services to improve support for children of color. The document is available for viewing on the CHIF website homepage in the "Monthly Spotlight" section at www.childrensinvestmentfund.org

●Allocation of Revenues Among Program Areas

There was a lengthy discussion among staff, the Allocation Committee and audience members on:

- How best to distribute new CHIF funding among the program areas of Early Childhood, After School, Mentoring, Child Abuse Prevention, Foster Care and the Leverage Fund.
- Whether current grantees should have to compete for new revenues.
- How much funding to set aside for the Leverage Fund.

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. Staff recommendations were:

- Dividing revenues between the areas as follows:
 - 33 percent for Early Childhood
 - 20 percent for After School
 - 13.5 percent for Mentoring
 - 20 percent for Child Abuse Prevention
 - 13.5 percent for Foster Care

- Requiring current grantees to compete for funding, along with programs not receiving CHIF funds, with the exception of the two current Head Start investments (Mt. Hood Community College at Gateway and Portland Public Schools Kelly Center).
- Allocating up to \$2 million to the Leverage Fund in the first three years, and possibly increasing the pool over time if revenues exceed forecasts.

Action:

After numerous public comment from service providers in the audience, the Allocation Committee voted to require grantees in general to compete for new revenues. Committee members postponed decisions on funding amounts among programs areas and determining Leverage Fund dollars, saying they wanted more time to consider the issues and needed to hear from additional constituents.

•The NEXT Allocation Committee meeting is this Thursday, Nov. 20th, 10 a.m. to noon, City Council Chambers, 1221 SW Fourth Ave., second floor. While there will be not be a vote at this meeting, the Allocation Committee and CHIF staff urges you to attend and give your feedback on these important issues:

- Proposed renewal of existing Head Start investments
- Proposed set aside of funds for the Leverage Fund
- Proposed allocation of revenues between program areas

•Additional meetings are:

-Dec. 1st, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Portland Building Auditorium

-Dec. 15th, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Portland Building Auditorium

Your input is important – please consider attending these meetings!

Other:

•If you missed the Allocation Committee meeting, watch it on Portland Cable Channel 30 at these times: Thursday, Nov. 27 at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m.

•Please welcome Lisa Hansell to the CHIF staff. Lisa, formerly of the county's Commission on Children, Families and Community, will be taking over the child abuse prevention/foster care portfolios as well as covering the early childhood arena while CHIF assistant program director Meg McElroy is on maternity leave. CHIF also welcomes Meg and her husband Rob's new baby girl, Isla, who arrived Nov. 13th. Mom and daughter are doing fine!

The Children's Investment Fund was created by Portland voters in 2002 and renewed 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. The Investment Fund is annually audited and administrative costs do not exceed 5 percent. Questions/comments: mgbroderick@ci.portland.or.us

See our website at www.childrensinvestmentfund.org

