



Invest a Minute

Allocation Committee Meeting Summary: April 24th, 2007/City Hall

Members

Present: City Commissioner and Chair Dan Saltzman; Dr. David Willis, a developmental pediatrician with the Northwest Early Childhood Institute and Multnomah County Commission Chair Ted Wheeler. Absent: Clara Padilla Andrews, publisher of El Hispanic News and Ron Beltz, a businessman who represents the Portland Business Alliance.

Action

- The Children's Investment Fund projects it will have \$14.1 million available for FY 2008-09 because of one-time only savings due to a gradual start-up of grants during the Fund's first year, personnel changes, unexpected higher tax revenues and a 5-percent administrative cap. If all grantees are funded for a sixth year of funding through June 30, 2009 at the current level plus 3 percent for inflation, a balance of \$3.2 million remains. This includes \$500,000 in unspent Leverage Fund dollars.

Staff recommended, and the Committee unanimously agreed, to allocate those extra funds to improving both childcare quality as well as access to childcare for some of Portland's neediest children during the next three years beginning July 1. The funding is aimed at boosting the quality of childcare centers and family-based childcare providers, as well as supporting low-income families with stable childcare through subsidies.

Under the first initiative, \$2.7 million will go toward:

- Enhancing the quality of local childcare providers whose assessment through a state-developed "Quality Indicators" tool flags a need for improvement. Childcare centers would receive staff mentoring and training in areas of child curriculum, health, mental health and business practices; they also would receive wage enhancements and grants to improve their childcare environment.
- Providing annual childcare subsidies for up to 100 children of low-income, working parents earning an income of no more than \$38,000 per year for a family of four. Childcare providers eligible to receive subsidies must meet various quality assurance criteria. Child Care Resource and Referral of Multnomah County will be the fiscal agent and lead provider and administrator of services.

The second approved proposal is a \$500,000 allocation from the Children's Investment Fund's Leverage Fund to provide childcare subsidies for Bridges to Housing families. The Fund dollars would provide childcare subsidies to the 52 families currently in Bridges to Housing and allow the program to leverage local resources and provide case management services for an additional 30 to 35 families. Bridges to Housing is a local four-county effort to alleviate family homelessness in the Portland area. The effort is being coordinated by the Neighborhood Partnership Fund, a leader in affordable housing programs and services throughout the state. Other collaborators include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust and Multnomah County.

The Children's Investment Fund's contribution to Bridges to Housing is the seventh allocation from its Leverage Fund created in December 2004 to match public investments

with private and other funders. Thus far, \$3 million has been allocated from the Leverage Fund to maximize community impact and make more resources available to Portland's children. These funds have been matched for a total investment of \$6.1 million.

Discussion/Updates

- Looking Ahead: Staff outlined a timeline for a planning process to decide how to allocate funds if voters renew the levy in Fall 2008. Grantees are encouraged to be involved in the process when opportunities arise; the Fund will communicate details of public meetings once set.

January 2007-December 2007:

- Academic research and consultation with policy-level individuals and organizations on system gaps in the three funding areas.
- Draft policy options on how funds will be apportioned within each funding area. Staff noted two possible policy options at opposite ends of the spectrum: **Renew all current grantees or open all funds to a competitive granting process similar to the process used after the 2002 levy passed.** Staff expects to develop policy options between these two extremes.

January 2008-June 2008:

- Community meetings for input on policy/funding options.
- Allocation Committee votes on funding priorities and process for each funding area

July 2008 - November 2008

- If necessary, prepare Request for Investment(s) for release after election.

November 2008-June 2009:

- Allocate levy funds per plan.
- All contracts to start July 1, 2009.

- SUN Task Force: A group of community leaders have convened to better define SUN and determine its role in providing services. Task force recommendations include:

- Creating of a Coordinating Council to carry out said goals.
- Identifying core services to be delivered at each site that are focused on academic achievement, student attendance, drop-out rates, graduation rates and self sufficiency.
- Developing an allocation formula based on a set of SUN student criteria.
- Establishing an overall funding strategy and performance-based contracting.

Children's Investment Fund staff is participating in the Coordinating Council and will update the Allocation Committee as there will likely be future implications for Fund SUN grants.

OTHER:

✓Saltzman thanked outgoing Allocation Committee member Willis for his tenure and commitment to Portland's children. A new city-appointed member will be named soon. Also, outgoing Allocation Committee member County Commissioner Lisa Naito was thanked in absentia and also cited for her dedication and work on behalf of the city's youth. Wheeler was welcomed to her vacated Allocation Committee position.

✓If you missed the Allocation Committee meeting, watch it on Portland Cable Channel 30 several times during the next week or so. Program listings can be found

on a link from the Fund's website homepage at www.childrensinvestmentfund.org. You can also view it on Portland Online (Real Player required) at <http://rs1.media.ci.portland.or.us:2259/ramgen/archives/chif042407.rm>

Portland voters in 2002 created the Children's Investment Fund supported through a five-year property tax levy annually generating \$10 million for 66 proven programs across the city. The Fund is annually audited and administrative costs do not exceed 5 percent. Questions/comments: mgbroderick@childrensinvestmentfund.org

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