

# Kids' Groups Get Funds

**T**wenty local children's organizations will receive more than \$6 million over two years from the Portland Children's Investment Fund.

Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who chairs the five-member Children's Fund Allocation Committee, noted that the allocations were made after considering 51 applications.

"The applications we received demonstrated, once again, how many worthy organizations in Portland are providing critical services to children across a broad spectrum of ethnic and cultural orientations, geographic areas and programs," Saltzman said.

He added, however, that the need still far exceeds the funding available.

"In this round of funding alone, we received over \$22 million per year in requests for just over \$6 million in available dollars for the next two years."

Before the latest round of recommendations, the Children's Investment Fund had provided a total of \$3.2 million per year in early childhood programs and \$1.6 million per year in child abuse prevention and intervention programs.

Those investments are funding services to more than 2,400 children and 475 families each year and will create over 50 jobs in the city. Administrative costs have been kept under 5 percent, according to investment fund officials.

Before the allocations were made, the five-member investment committee gathered comments from those attending several community meetings about how the request for funding should be written and how requests should be evaluated.

All proposals were then distributed to teams of community and academic reviewers who scored them against the pre-determined criteria. In addition to reviewer scores, investment fund staff members also provided information for the

allocation committee about various other pertinent application details, including populations served, geographic area(s) served, percent of the organization's overall budget represented by the proposal, etc.

The reviewer scores, along with the additional information and staff program summaries, helped the allocation committee decide who should receive allocations and how much they should receive.

Those recommendations will go to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and then the Portland City Council for approval.

Ron Beltz, the Portland Business Alliance's representative on the allocation committee, said the extensive review process was critical to the committee's ability to make good decisions on behalf of the community.

The Children's Investment Fund was created by a voter-passed initiative in 2002 that provides approximately \$8.5 million a year for five years to support programs designed to help children arrive at school ready to learn, provide safe and constructive after-school alternatives for kids and prevent child abuse and neglect and family violence.

Eligible programs must demonstrate that they are cost effective and have a proven record of success.

The five-member Allocation Committee includes Saltzman, who serves as the chair; Beltz; Multnomah County Commissioner Lisa Naito; Samuel Henry, professor of education at Portland State University; and David Willis, Ph.D., a developmental pediatrician with the Northwest Early Childhood Institute.

For more information about the Children's Investment Fund, contact Nancy Hamilton, 971-230-0352, ext. 308 or 503-704-3816; or e-mail her at [nhamilton@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:nhamilton@ci.portland.or.us).