



Invest a Minute

Allocation Committee Meeting Summary: Feb. 7th, 2006/City Hall

Members

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman; Clara Padilla Andrews, owner and publisher of El Hispanic News; Ron Beltz, a businessman who represents the Portland Business Alliance; and Dr. David Willis, a developmental pediatrician with the Northwest Early Childhood Institute. County Commissioner Lisa Naito was absent.

Discussion

✓ The committee discussed allocation options for roughly \$6.8 million in unallocated future revenues. These additional projected revenues -- forecast by the City of Portland's economist for the current year, and 2007 and 2008 -- exceed previous budget projections on which funding commitments have been based.

Staff made a recommendation that the funds be earmarked for preschool expansion for low-income children throughout Portland. Specifically, that they go to expand Head Start model pre-school services for low-income 3 and 4 year olds through current Fund grantees of these programs. Reasons include extensive research supporting the efficacy and cost effectiveness of this investment as well as the desire to make a measurable impact on a large number of children in the city. There are currently between 600 and 700 children in Multnomah County on waiting lists for these services. Early child advocates Swati Adarkar from the Children's Institute and Jonah Edelman from Stand for Children spoke in favor of this move.

While committee members said they were generally favorable to the idea, they asked staff to look into including additional services in the model, such as a larger child health and wellness component. They also requested that staff examine dividing unallocated revenues between all three of the Children's Investment Fund program areas which would include after-school and mentoring programs, and child abuse prevention and intervention programs. Staff will be exploring these issues during the coming months.

Action

✓ The Committee approved going forward with Leverage Fund potential partnerships between the Children's Investment Fund and:

- The Allen Foundation, for expansion of the Saturday Academy which provides after-school and weekend exploration of science, engineering and technology. Children's Investment Fund Leverage dollars would go toward bringing the program to more low-income and minority students.
- Meyer Memorial Trust, for expansion of Morrison and Child Family Services early childhood program at Peninsula Childcare Center. The proposed program at Peninsula would fund Morrison's cadre of mental health specialists to work with staff, parents and children in supporting social emotional development.

The Children's Investment Fund set aside \$3 million in a Leverage Fund to partner with private donors to have a broader impact on Portland's children. Thus far nearly \$1.8 million has been matched from the Children's Investment Fund in dollar-for-dollar partnerships with the Schnitzer Care Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust and the Gates Foundation for a total \$3.6 million community investment. Funds have gone to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Portland's New Columbia site and Nightscape Teen Program; the Juvenile Rights Project's SchoolWorks program; Start Making a Reader Today (SMART); and Multnomah County Library's community literacy strategies and Raising a Reader Today.

Next meeting

✓The Allocation Committee will meet May 23rd, 2006 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave. Agenda items include renewal decisions for after-school and mentoring programs.

Please see the Children's Investment Fund website closer to the meeting date for a complete agenda.

AVAILABLE:

✓The first 2004-05 Progress Report of the Children's Investment Fund is now available. For copies, contact, contact Mary Gay Broderick at mgbroderick@childrensinvestmentfund.org or call 503-823-2947. You can also view a downloadable version on our website at www.childrensinvestmentfund.org

Background

In November 2002 Portland voters created the Children's Investment Fund, a five-year property tax levy through 2008. During this time about \$40 million will be distributed to 61 different proven programs at 47 organizations across the city. The Fund is annually audited and administrative costs do not exceed 5 percent.

www.childrensinvestmentfund.org

Questions/comments: mgbroderick@childrensinvestmentfund.org
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