



Invest a Minute

Allocation Committee Meeting Summary: May 23rd, 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; County Commissioner Lisa Naito and Dr. David Willis, a developmental pediatrician with the Northwest Early Childhood Institute.

Discussion

✓ Committee members heard a recommendation from the Early Childhood Workgroup, consisting of staff, Allocation Committee members and participants from the early childhood community, which had looked at funding options for roughly \$6.8 million in unallocated future revenues for the Children's Investment Fund. 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.

After lengthy meetings and discussion, the workgroup recommended splitting the \$6.8 million funding equally over three years beginning in July 2007, with half going to Head Start expansion and half to childcare quality improvements and low-income family childcare subsidies.

Details of the proposal include:

- Head Start expansion would annually serve about 100 additional children from low-income families for three years.
- Childcare improvement efforts would target about 12 to 15 centers that each annually serve roughly 20 to 40 children, or a total of about 250 children of working parents. Centers would receive mentoring; access to consultants in early childhood education, health and development; and resource grants for training and supplies. Providers would work to raise quality on a set of seven research-based indicators currently being used locally.
- Child-care subsidies would be available to a limited number of low-income working parents each year annually serving about 60 to 80 children coming from families with an annual income up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$37,000 for a family of four). Providers accepting the subsidies must agree to quality improvement efforts.
- Funds for both childcare efforts would be invested in Metro Childcare Resource and Referral at Mt. Hood Community College.

Public comment will be solicited before the Allocation Committee votes at its meeting July 18th, 2006. Funding recommendations would begin by Fall 2006.

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Action

√ The Committee approved After-School and Mentoring program renewals totaling roughly \$6.4 million from July of this year through June 30, 2008. The 20 programs, all currently receiving funding, were all found to be in general compliance with contract requirements and program delivery. Based on results of site visits, program file and document review and other criteria, 10 programs were found to exceed program standards while the remaining 10 met standards. No program failed to meet standards.

Next meeting

√ The Allocation Committee will meet July 18th, 2006 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave. Agenda items include a decision on the early childhood proposal for unallocated funds. Please see the Children’s Investment Fund website closer to the meeting date for a complete agenda.

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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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