



Invest a Minute

Allocation Committee Meeting Summary/Aug. 9th, 2005

Members

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman; County Commissioner Lisa Naito; 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.

Action

✓The committee gave preliminary approval for investing \$375,000 from the Leverage Fund with a matching grant from the Schnitzer Care Foundation toward the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Portland. If final approval is given, the Children's Investment Funds allocation will go toward start-up program costs at the planned Boys & Girls Clubs in New Columbia in North Portland's Portsmouth neighborhood, as well as an evening teen program, NightScape, at the Wattles and Blazer club sites. The committee OK is pending members' receipt and approval of more detailed information on NightScape's program efficacy.

The Schnitzer's donation will go toward construction of the New Columbia facility. The allocation from the Children's Investment Fund was the first one made from its \$3 million Leverage Fund, which was created to attract private funders for a concentrated effort to serve Portland's youth.

✓Also, the committee OK'd more than \$4 million in future investments for 10 current child abuse prevention and intervention programs, adding to the \$2.6 million already being spent in this area. The investments for the programs cover a 33-month period from October 2005 through June 2008. The investments were renewed after lengthy staff site visits and program performance assessment.

Grantees had to meet a variety of requirements, including contract compliance in the number of children they serve and their scope of services, as well as satisfying budget and independent audit criteria. All of the Children's Investment Fund grantees were in compliance with contract requirements.

The renewals, which must be approved by Portland City Council and the Multnomah County Commission, include Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Portland's Project Hope, the Children's Relief Nursery, Christie School's Children's Receiving Center, Janus Youth Programs' Metamorphosis, Lifework Northwest Family and Community Alliance and its Youth Service Team, Listen to Kids' Portland's Children's Intervention Project, Salvation Army West Women's and Children's Shelter, Catholic Charities El Programa Hispano and Volunteers of America's Family Relief Nursery.

✓ In addition, the committee awarded the limited \$870,000, 33-month early childhood RFI contract to Neighborhood House to expand its current program funded by the Children's

Investment Fund in Early Oregon Pre-K home visit model, to serve 10 additional children. Neighborhood House also will enhance services for its two networks of in-home childcare providers by adding the services of Early OPK to 25 children per year.

Next meeting

√The Allocation Committee agreed to move to quarterly meetings. Please see the Children's Investment Fund website for future meeting dates.

Background

Since Portland voters created the Children's Investment Fund in 2002, nearly \$16 million has been distributed to 50 different proven programs at 42 organizations across the city. These two-year investments include about \$6.7 million in early childhood programs; \$3.1 million for child abuse and prevention/intervention programs; and \$6.2 million for after-school and mentoring programs. The Children's Investment Fund recently invested an additional \$2 million in after-school/mentoring programs, scheduled to begin in July. The Fund is annually audited and administrative costs do not exceed 5 percent.

www.childrensinvestmentfund.org