



Invest a Minute

Allocation Committee Meeting Summary: Nov. 8th, 2005/City Hall

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 approved investing \$325,000 from the Children's Investment Fund Leverage Fund with a matching grant from Meyer Memorial Trust to expand the Juvenile Rights Project's SchoolWorks Program. The matching grants would extend the age range of children served from 5 to 18 years of age (from the current 8 to 15 years of age) so all school-aged children would be eligible.

The SchoolWorks program provides children in foster care and children in the juvenile justice system with advocacy and social service coordination so they can stay in school. Attorneys and social workers advocate for these children through the legal and education systems to ensure that their physical health, mental health and disability needs are met. Past data shows that the program is successful in reducing disciplinary actions, improving academic achievement, reducing moves between schools and obtaining additional services for children when necessary.

The funding would be spread over three years from July 2006 through June 2009; specifically, money from the Children's Investment Fund would go toward an additional 1.6 FTE for attorneys and an additional 1.0 for a social worker.

The SchoolWorks program is the second investment from the Children's Investment Fund Leverage Fund, which was created to attract private funders for a concentrated effort to serve Portland's youth. In August, the Allocation Committee approved investing \$375,000 with a matching grant from the Schnitzer Care Foundation toward the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Portland. 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.

Future possible partnerships being pursued include those with United Way, the Allen Foundation and the Gates Foundation.

✓Also, Portland State University researchers delivered their final report on a sample of early childhood programs funded by the Children's Investment Fund. The study showed that 80 percent of the children served are meeting key milestones in growth and development. The

remaining 20 percent are making progress toward meeting appropriate benchmarks, with many enrolled in intervention programs addressing their developmental needs. In a related item, PSU will continue to assess early childhood and child abuse prevention/intervention grantee services and programs to provide tracking and reporting outcomes to staff and will offer technical and other assistance to grantees to meet their annual reporting requirements. In addition, Portland Public Schools will provide data on students who attend after-school and mentoring programs funded by the Children's Investment Fund.

√Children's Investment Fund staff reported on the organization's annual independent audit for the fiscal year ending June 2005. The audit found the Fund in compliance with the 2002 levy ballot language in that administrative expenses were less than 5 percent of revenues and were necessary and proper and all grant disbursements were properly documented and in accordance with approved program budgets.

Next meeting

√The Allocation Committee will next meet Feb. 7th, 2006 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at City Hall. Please see the Children's Investment Fund website closer to the meeting date for agenda items.

AVAILABLE:

√The new brochure highlighting the Children's Investment Fund and its programs is now available. Also, our first Annual Report will be back from the printer in a few weeks and available as well; for copies, contact Mary Gay Broderick at mgbroderick@childrensinvestmentfund.org or call 503-823-2947.

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
or call 503-823-2947.

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