



## Invest a Minute

Allocation Committee Meeting Summary/June 28th, 2005

### Members

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

### Action

✓ The committee gave the go-ahead to Metropolitan Group consultant JS May to continue discussions with several local and regional philanthropic parties interested in partnering with the Children's Investment Fund's \$3 million leverage fund.

Specifically, he will report back to committee members in early fall after exploring further opportunities with:

- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: for supportive social services for the Bridges to Housing project for homeless family transition into affordable housing, such as Portland's New Columbia project. Partnership possibilities include an investment by the Children's Investment Fund for childcare or other related areas.
- Meyer Memorial Trust: for the Bridges to Housing project, as well as the Multnomah County Library Early Literacy Project and the Child Care Improvement Project. Partnership possibilities with the latter two, respectively, would include an investment by the Children's Investment Fund for parent literacy education and working with employer subsidized childcare for low-income families.
- The Schnitzer Care Foundation and the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation: for the New Columbia School Boys and Girls Club. Partnership possibilities include an investment by the Children's Investment Fund for club operational support, including after-school activities for at-risk teens.
- US Bank: for expansion of the SMART program.

✓ The committee approved the limited Request for Investment for services that reflect an early head start model. The 33-month-long, \$900,000 contract begins in October 2005 for children ages birth to 3, and their families, and includes components such as center-based care, home visits and full-day childcare. The RFI will fill the need left by Early Head Start Family Center of Portland, which had a contract with the Children's Investment Fund and is relinquishing its federal Early Head Start grants.

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The RFI will be due back in July for consideration by the Allocation Committee in August. For more information, contact Children's Investment Fund Assistant Director Meg McElroy at 503-823-2942.

✓ The committee approved investing \$88,000 from the Children's Investment Fund Leverage Fund toward an Early Learning Opportunities Act grant (distributed by the US Department of Health and Human Services) sought by the Commission on Children, Families and Community. The grant would improve school readiness for youths attending daycare settings in the homes of friends, neighbors and family members. Participants would receive training and materials to improve the quality of childcare they provide. The allocation from the Children's Investment Fund would be matched with federal funds; the total grant amount sought by the CCFC is \$500,000. If awarded, the grant would begin in September.

✓ The committee approved several Stand for Children-proposed recommendations to improve the quality of after-school programs.

#### Next meeting

✓ The next meeting of the Children's Investment Fund will be from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at Council Chambers at City Hall, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Agenda items include discussion of renewal for early childhood programs, and abuse prevention and intervention contracts.

#### 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](http://www.childrensinvestmentfund.org)