



portland children's investment fund

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June 2, 2009

Portland Children's Investment Fund Invests **\$5 M in Nine Foster Care Programs**

The Portland Children's Investment Fund Monday invested \$4.96 million in nine local foster care programs benefiting Portland children and their families. Helping children in foster care succeed is a new focus of the Investment Fund under the renewed Children's Levy approved by voters in Fall 2008 for an additional five years.

The nine organizations receiving investments are: NAYA Family Center, \$1.38 million; Impact NW, \$750,000; SEI, \$750,000; Juvenile Rights Project, \$562,643; Janus Youth Programs, Inc., \$470,896; Emanuel Children's Hospital, \$400,000; Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia NW, \$352,952; Children's Relief Nursery, \$175,000; Boys and Girls Aid, \$109,556.

The investments span a 36-month period from July 2009 through June 2012. These investments help hundreds of children age birth through 24 in foster care programs that:

- Help maintain placement stability
- Move children out of foster care sooner
- Provide educational support networks, especially during major school transitions, as well as for youth aging out of foster care
- Promote mentoring and enrichment activities
- Offer mental health services

Many of the programs also address the over-representation of children of color in the child welfare system.

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Sixteen program applications totaling over \$13 million competed for \$4.96 million worth of funding. The agencies selected represent programs serving all quadrants of the city.

Allocation Committee members expressed their thanks to all of the organizations submitting applications and applauded their efforts in working to improve the lives of Portland youth.

“We’re confident that these investments will make a positive difference in the lives of children and young adults in foster care,” said City Commissioner and Allocation Committee Chair Dan Saltzman. “We want to thank city voters for supporting the Children’s Investment Fund and its efforts to help the city’s youth and their families.”

Monday’s meeting is the second of three funding meetings to grant out new investments under the renewed Levy.

The Allocation Committee meets June 9th to approve three-year investments totaling more than \$12 million for programs in Early Childhood and \$7.3 million in Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention. And last month, more than \$12 million was allocated by the Investment Fund to 30 After School and Mentoring programs supporting Portland children.

The Children’s Investment Fund annually generates about \$12 million to sustain and expand programs reaching out to 16,000 Portland children and families each year. A Leverage Fund matched \$3 million in public funding with private dollars to contribute more than \$6 million to maximize community impact and make more resources available for city youth.

The Fund is annually audited and administrative expenses cannot exceed 5 percent so 95 cents of every dollar goes to city youth.

For more information, go to www.childrensinvestmentfund.org.
