



Community Outreach
SUN Coordinating Council

September 6, 2013

What is the Portland Children's Levy?

- Created by city voters in 2002; overwhelmingly renewed in 2008 and in 2013.
- Competitive, multi-year grants to proven programs; average annual grant \$150k.
- Starting July 1, 2014, projected to invest an average \$9 million/year in services for children & families.
- Costs \$60 annually for average home owner.



What services do Levy funds support?

- **Early Childhood**
home visiting, Head Start, affordable quality childcare
- **After School & Mentoring**
safe & constructive activities, caring adults, educational support
- **Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention**
short term and long term supports for stressed families,
including home visiting, support groups, parenting support
- **Foster Care**
short term and long term supports for children in foster care
including services to birth parents and foster parents
- **Hunger Relief**
(Beginning July 2014)



How are funds divided among the program areas?

Total competitive grants in FY 13-14	Funding Allocated	Portion of Total Levy Funds
Early Childhood	\$2,835,349	34.8%
Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention	\$1,688,339	20.7%
After School	\$1,345,154	16.5%
Foster Care	\$1,220,754	15.0%
Mentoring	\$1,056,482	13.0%
Hunger Relief (new as of July 2014)	n/a	n/a

Total \$8,146,078



How is the Levy supporting culturally specific services?

- In response to public input, applicants for funding in the current Levy period were awarded 3 additional points for culturally specific programs

Over past 3 years culturally specific programs:

- received 31% of Levy funding
- served between 13% - 15% of all children served by the Levy

How is the Levy supporting children in East Portland?

- In response to public input, applicants for funding in the current Levy period were awarded 3 additional points for serving children who reside or go to school East of 82nd Ave.
- 37% of children served by Levy programs resided or went to school in zip codes East of 82nd Ave. (FY 2012)
- 28% of the residents in zip codes located East of 82nd Ave. and within the City of Portland are youth aged 19 and under (2010 Census Data).
- The percentage of people living at or below the Federal Poverty Level in East Portland is 19.1% and 16.1% for Portland as a whole.

Which children does the Levy serve?

During July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012 (n=17,809):

- **Race/Ethnicity**

Over 60% of children served last year were children of color.

- **Primary Language**

Over 30% come from families where the primary language spoken in the home is not English.

- **Age**

55% of children served were between ages of birth to 8 years old.

- **Geography**

Over 35% of children served live or attend school east of 82nd Ave.

- **Socioeconomic Status**

Data not reported for almost half of children served. For children with data reported, 99% come from families with incomes at 185% of Federal Poverty Level or less.



Racial/Ethnic Equity: Children served by Levy

- Across the Levy, the proportion of children served that identify as children of color exceeds the proportion of children of color enrolled in local schools (population to population comparison).
- Across the Levy, the proportion of children served that identify within specific racial/ethnic populations exceeds the proportion of the respective populations enrolled in local schools, with a one exception- children that identify as Asian/Pacific Islander.
- These trends vary significantly by Levy program area.

Racial/Ethnic Equity:

Children served in Levy Program Areas

- In Levy program areas of Early Childhood, After School, and Mentoring, proportion of children within race/ethnicity populations served
 - exceeds their proportion of school enrollments (e.g. Early Childhood- Latino; After School and Mentoring- African American/African)
 - is below the proportion of school enrollment (e.g. Early Childhood and Mentoring: Native American/Alaska Native; Mentoring- Latino; all three areas- API)
- For these program areas that have greatest likelihood for supporting academic success outcomes, an equity focus suggests the Levy should
 - assure all racial/ethnic populations are, at minimum, served by the Levy in proportion to their proportion in school enrollments
 - serve proportionally more children from specific racial/ethnic populations at risk for the achievement gap (exceeding school enrollment proportions)
- With future Levy funding, a challenge lies in preserving high proportions of specific populations currently served in these areas, while seeking to expand proportions for underserved populations.

Racial/Ethnic Equity:

Children served in Levy Program Areas

- In Levy program areas of Child Abuse Prevention/Intervention and Foster Care, the proportion of children within race/ethnicity populations served
 - exceeds their proportion in child welfare (e.g. Child Abuse Prev.-Latino; Foster Care- African American/African, and Native American/Alaska Native)
 - is below the proportion in child welfare (e.g. Child Abuse Prev.- nearly all populations)
- For these program areas that have greatest likelihood to contribute to family stability outcomes and reduce overrepresentation of specific racial/ethnic populations in foster care, an equity focus suggests the Levy should
 - assure that in the Foster Care program area, specific racial/ethnic populations are served by the Levy at least in proportion to their proportion in foster care
 - in the Child Abuse Prevention/intervention program area, serve proportionally more children from specific populations over-represented in child welfare to reduce and prevent over-representation

What's Missing from Demographic Data?

- Data on specific populations within “white” (Eastern European immigrants), and “black” (African immigrants).
- Duplicated race/ethnicity data that reflects all of the multiple races/ethnicities with which each program participant identifies
- The ability to disaggregate outcome data by other variables (poverty, race/ethnicity)

How is the Levy accountable?

- Operates with 5-percent cap on administrative expenses.
- Annually audited.
- 95 cents of every dollar goes to proven programs.
- A five-member Allocation Committee meets publicly to make all funding decisions.
- Grantees are selected through a competitive funding process.
- All grants to programs are monitored by staff.
- Program accountability measures include: service goals in grant contract, participation by children/families in services, staff turnover, and child/family outcomes met.



What are the Levy's results?

During the period July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012:

- **Service Goals**

95% of grantees met service goals; 5% had concerns.

- **Service Participation**

62 % of children and families met participation expectations for services.

90% of children and families did not exit from services prematurely.

- **Staff Turnover**

18% of staff positions turned over.

- **Child/Family Outcomes**

86.3% of outcome goals were met by grantees.



What types of child/family outcomes are tracked?

Examples of some outcomes achieved last year include:

- **Early Childhood**

89% of children were on track with age appropriate developmental milestones.

- **Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention**

Over 70% of parents met parenting and family functioning goals.

- **After School and Mentoring**

83% of youth improved their attitude toward or connection to school.

- **Foster Care**

96% of birth parents met parenting goals.



How are grants awarded?

- Application guidelines– Request for Investment– published for each funding area (e.g. early childhood, after school)
 - Guidelines result from community input process, public meetings, and policy/service priorities decided by Allocation Committee.
- Volunteers review and score applications.
 - Staff recruits volunteer reviewers.
 - Volunteer reviewers receive orientation and instructions on review and scoring of applications.
 - Staff convenes reviewers to discuss their review results.
 - Reviewers scores averaged per application.
- Allocation Committee holds public meetings to make decisions.
 - Applications and scores provided to Allocation Committee.
 - Staff prepares recommendations based on application data, score, past grant performance, community needs, and policy priorities.
 - Committee uses all information, not just scores, to make decisions.



Timeline for future grant-making

- **July – November 2013:**
 - Gather, summarize and report community input to Allocation Committee
 - Analyze community input, recent research, and Levy experience to inform funding framework and priorities proposed to Allocation Committee
- **November 2013– early January 2014:**
Introduce and refine draft Request for Investments (RFI)
- **Mid to Late January 2014:** Publish RFIs
- **Mid to Late March 2014:** Applications due
- **April – Early May 2014:** Volunteers review and score applications
- **Mid May – Mid June 2014:**
Allocation Committee meetings with funding decisions
- **July 1, 2014:** new grants begin



Additional Public Input Meetings

- Tuesday, Sept. 24th, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Downtown Central Library, 801 SW 10th Ave.



Want more information on the Portland Children's Levy?

- Visit our website:
www.portlandchildrenslevy.org
- Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/PDX.PCL
- Give us additional input via online survey:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/PCLCommunityOutreach

