

Portland Children's Levy
Allocation Committee Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Location: City council Chambers – hybrid via Zoom

The full record of the meeting may be viewed on the Portland Children's Investment Fund website: www.portlandchildrenslevy.org or YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETHLFOQgNVw>

For further detail, all are invited to reference the meeting video on YouTube, linked above.

All presentation slides are appended to these minutes.

Attending: Mitch Hornecker (virtual), Traci Rossi (virtual), Dan Ryan (Chair), Felicia Tripp (virtual); absent Jessica Vega Pederson

Welcome/introduction of Allocation Committee and Children's Levy staff

Minutes of February 21, 2023, meeting – approved without revision

Public Comment on non-agenda items –

none

FY 2022 Audit Report

Craig Popp from Merina + Co., presented the results of their annual compliance examination. PCL has complied with the 5% administrative cap and there were no significant findings or recommendations.

The audit report can be found on the PCL website:
<https://www.portlandchildrenslevy.org/report/annual-independent-audit-reports>

Revised Policy Change Proposal for Foster Care Grants

At the February meeting, PCL staff requested a policy change in who may be served by PCL foster care programs. To date, PCL has required programs to serve youth who are in foster care at the time of program enrollment or youth who were in foster care at some time before enrollment. The rationale for this policy was to focus services on the population of youth who were in substitute care at the time of program enrollment or had been in substitute care at some time before program enrollment.

PCL staff proposed changing this eligibility requirement to allow programs to serve children and families with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) involvement who are not in substitute care. This would include children who still reside with their birth families and who have any of the following:

- an open child welfare Child Protective Service (CPS) assessment
- an open voluntary case with ODHS child welfare
- a dependency case with ODHS child welfare

In cases where no family can be identified, staff recommended that programs serve a child with an open CPS assessment or an open voluntary case with ODHS child welfare.

The reasons for the proposed change are that the population of youth in foster care continues to decline, ODHS is focused on preventing foster care placement, and broadening eligibility requirements would allow PCL-funded programs to support families to safely stay together. Two grantee partners (Youth, Rights and Justice, Janus Insights Young Parent Program), and staff from ODHS spoke in support of the policy change.

Additional Information Requested by AC

Committee members requested additional information and expressed concerns about directing resources to youth who had never been in substitute care. The information requested and responses are below.

- **Definition of “youth in foster care”:** One member asked whether the ballot measure or Act governing the Levy defined “youth in foster care.” Neither the ballot measure nor Act defines this term. To date, it has been defined in PCL funding applications as youth who are or ever were in substitute care.
- **Percentage of youth in foster care in Multnomah County who are served in PCL-funded programs:** Several members requested data on the percentage of youth in foster care in Multnomah County who are served in PCL-funded programs to understand how well PCL programming is reaching youth in substitute care. In 2021-22, PCL-funded foster care programs served 41% of youth in substitute care in Multnomah County (571/1401). Data for the first half of FY 2023 show programs continuing to serve 40% of youth in substitute care in Multnomah County between July 1 – Dec. 31, 2022.
- **Capacity of foster care programs to serve more youth:** Some members asked whether foster care programs had capacity to serve additional youth. In FY 2022, foster care programs as a whole were at 90.6% of goal for the number of youth served, which indicates some capacity to serve more youth in the program area. More importantly, there is variation between programs, with some serving more youth than anticipated and others serving fewer. The two programs that testified in support of the policy change served fewer youth than anticipated last year and could potentially have space to serve youth who are ODHS involved but haven’t been removed from their homes.

Revised Policy Change Proposal

PCL staff propose to permit foster care programs to serve some youth who fall into the categories described above but limit the number of youth served who are not in substitute care to 10% of the program’s service goal. If programs want to exceed the 10% limit, they can request and must receive approval from the PCL grant manager.

Rationale: The revised policy assures that the focus remains on serving youth in substitute care but allows programs with capacity to provide services that may help prevent foster care placement. While foster care programs are not reaching all youth in foster care in the City of Portland, they are reaching a substantial portion. There are many factors that influence whether foster youth participate in any given PCL-funded foster care program including:

- There may be a mismatch between foster youth demographics and service needs on one hand, and programs with the capacity to serve a particular youth, including age and cultural or language preference, on the other hand. For example, a child needing services may be age 5 but none of the programs offering services to that age group have capacity to accept the referral. Or a program may focus on serving immigrant/refugee youth in foster care and therefore is not the best fit for a youth who is neither.
- Programs depend on ODHS for referrals of current foster youth or verification of past foster care placement and don't control who is referred or the number of referrals they receive.
- A youth and/or their birth parents may live in Multnomah County but neither live in the City of Portland and therefore not be eligible to receive services.
- Youth and/or foster families can decline to participate in services despite referrals. All services are voluntary.

Allowing programs flexibility to serve youth who meet the criteria described above if programs have the capacity to do so will support vulnerable youth and families to avoid foster care placement.

Vote: all in favor

Large Grant Renewal Decisions

Staff provided renewal recommendations and a supporting memo to the Committee on March 31. These recommendations were available to the audience of the meeting on the PCL website.

Grantees were able to submit written comments on staff funding recommendations for renewal grants through April 6. Thirteen grantees sent comments, most of which supported staff recommendations.

The recommended funding amounts are included as an appendix to these minutes.

Vote: All in favor of recommended funding amounts in all program areas.

Mitch Hornecker abstained on the vote which included New Avenues for Youth.

Traci Rossi abstained on the vote which included Friends of the Children.

Community Council Update

The Community Council held its second meeting on March 15. Council discussed group values for their work. They highlighted city values that align with the Council's purpose and identified other values to guide them, for example, responsiveness. They discussed their bylaws and voting process. Draft bylaws, which the Council has not yet ratified, include a modified consensus model for decision-making. Council members voted 7-4 with one abstention, on using written ballot, rather than oral voting, in decision-making. Council decided that they will further explore how to handle tie votes at their next meeting. Council reviewed PCL's past community engagement process and its implications for the next potential community engagement process.

During April PCL staff will facilitate optional small meetings with individual council members to identify an equity-driven approach to the community engagement process. Staff will gather feedback from members on goals for future community engagement, program area topics they want input on from communities, and priority communities to engage. Staff will analyze themes in the feedback and present these to the full Council at their May 24 meeting. Staff will facilitate the Council to discuss the themes and create recommendations on community engagement goals, priority topics for community input, communities to engage, and any additional issues related to the future community engagement process. Staff will present Council's recommendations to the Allocation Committee at its June 13 meeting.

Event Sponsorships

Before the pandemic, PCL offered 20 event sponsorships of \$500 each annually to organizations focused on children and families that do not currently receive funding from PCL. Sponsorships were offered on a first-come, first-served basis twice per year. Recipients were required to list PCL as a sponsor in any materials related to the event. The sponsorships were discontinued during the pandemic when events moved online. Since many organizations have now returned to in-person events, PCL is restarting the sponsorships and plans to begin offering them again this summer.

Next meeting is June 13 at City Council Chambers

Adjourned 3:45 pm.



PCL staff recommendations for 2-year grant renewal, April 2023

At the Allocation Committee's February 21 meeting, PCL staff outlined a grant renewal process and formula for calculating renewal funding recommendations. All current 3-year grants (7/1/20- 6/30/23) were eligible for renewal.

- Based on available Levy resources, staff outlined a renewal formula of 40% of grantee's 3-year grant amount as the base plus 4% compounded COLAs for each of the renewal grant years. This method accounts for increased inflation rates since 3-year grants were made in 2020.
- Process included confirming if grantees wanted their grant renewed and staff review of grant performance and spending.
- Staff sent renewal recommendations to each grantee individually (March 29-31). Grantees had the option to send written comments on staff recommendations by April 6. Staff provided grantee comments to the Allocation Committee.

Staff has recommended:

- 76 of 80 grants be renewed at the full formula level.
- 3 grants for reduced funding and service levels. In all of these cases, grantees have not been able to return to the pre-pandemic levels of service and trends continue at substantially lower service levels. Funding recommendations reduce grants commensurate to lower service.

The following pages show staff's renewal funding recommendations for each of PCL's large grants.

After School 2-year Grant Renewal Recommendations, 2023- 2025

Organization	Program	Staff Renewal Recommendation	Total 2-year Renewal Grant Max
El Programa Hispano Católico	Afterschool Academic Support/Enrichment	Reduce base funding to 53% of 22-23 budget	\$260,179
Ethos, Inc.	Music Corp	Renew at full formula	\$278,642
Girls Inc.	Girls Groups	Renew at full formula	\$196,317
Hacienda CDC	Expresiones	Renew at full formula	\$497,703
IRCO	SUN (2 schools)	Renew at full formula	\$329,325
IRCO	INSPIRE	Renew at full formula	\$1,370,615
Impact NW	AKA Science	Renew at full formula	\$294,129
Impact NW	CORE (Jobs 101 and Pathways to Trades)	Renew at full formula	\$358,573
Latino Network	Conexiones/Escalera	Renew at full formula	\$1,187,511
Latino Network	Studio Latino	Renew at full formula	\$196,729
Metropolitan Family Service	SUN (2 schools)	Renew at full formula	\$385,230
NAYA	Afterschool Program	Renew at full formula	\$524,696
Neighborhood House	Connect	Renew at full formula	\$224,435
Open School	Step Up	Renew at full formula	\$1,180,134
Oregon BRAVO	Youth Orchestra	Renew at full formula	\$280,712
Our Just Future (formerly Human Solutions)	Learn Links	Renew at full formula	\$502,399
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center	Afterschool Program	Renew at full formula	\$262,305
Portland State Univ.	Oregon MESA	Renew at full formula	\$297,230
REAP	Afterschool Program	Renew at full formula	\$469,665
Self Enhancement, Inc.	Afterschool Program	Renew at full formula	\$1,048,303

Child Abuse Prevention Intervention 2-year Grant Renewal Recommendations, 2023- 2025

Organization	Program	Staff Renewal Recommendation	Total 2-year Renewal Grant Max
Bridge Meadows	Intergeneration Intervention	Renew at full formula	\$255,865
El Programa Hispano Católico	Parent Child Intervention Program	Renew at full formula	\$596,680
IRCO	Child Abuse Prev. Prog	Renew at full formula	\$895,158
Janus Youth Programs	Seeds	Renew at full formula	\$646,809
Legacy Emanuel Hospital	CARES NW	Renew at full formula	\$528,401
Lifeworks NW	Children's Relief Nursery	Renew at full formula	\$1,365,625
Lifeworks NW	Family and Community Alliance	Renew at full formula	\$549,474
Lutheran Community Services NW	Parenting in Portland	Renew at full formula	\$624,893
NAYA	Parenting in Two Worlds	Renew at full formula	\$557,301
Oregon Community Health Workers Association (ORCHWA)	Community Education Worker Program	Renew at full formula	\$826,875
The Pathfinder Network	Center for Family Success	Renew at full formula	\$804,737
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center	Young Parent Program	Renew at full formula	\$402,702
SEI	Parent Engagement Services	Renew at full formula	\$357,959
Volunteers of America	Family Relief Nursery	Renew at full formula	\$1,041,579

Early Childhood 2-year Grant Renewal Recommendations, 2023- 2025

Organization	Program	Staff Renewal Recommendation	Total 2-year Renewal Grant Max
Albina Head Start	Early Head Start	Renew at full formula	\$1,718,496
Albina Head Start	Head Start/Oregon PreKindergarten	Renew at full formula	\$1,718,496
The Black Parent Initiative	Together We Can, Sacred Roots	Renew at full formula	\$427,631
David Douglas Sch. District	Nuestro Futuro PreK	Renew at full formula	\$826,265
Hacienda CDC	Sembrando Semillitas	Renew at full formula	\$564,607
Impact NW	Parent Child Development Services	Renew at full formula	\$657,712
IRCO	Child and Parent Success	Renew at full formula	\$1,264,170
Latino Network	Juntos Aprendemos	Renew at full formula	\$1,452,915
Metropolitan Family Service	Ready, Set, Go	Renew at full formula	\$343,354
Mt Hood CC Head Start	Early Head Start	Renew at full formula	\$1,465,177
Mt Hood CC Head Start	Head Start/Oregon PreKindergarten	Grantee declined to renew grant	
Morrison Child & Family Services	Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	Renew at full formula	\$1,718,496
Morrison Child & Family Services	Listos Para Aprender	Renew at full formula	\$1,460,562
NAYA Family Center	Ten'as Sun	Renew at full formula	\$515,906
Neighborhood House	Early Oregon Prekindergarten	Reduce base funding 30% on 22-23 budget	\$554,484
Portland Public Schools	Head Start/Oregon PreKindergarten	Renew at full formula	\$1,416,476
SPECIAL INITIATIVE- crosses Early Childhood and After School Program Areas			
Childcare Resource & Referral- Multnomah County (at Mt Hood Community College)	Community Childcare Initiative	Renew at full formula	\$4,328,064

Foster Care 2-year Grant Renewal Recommendations, 2023- 2025

Organization	Program	Staff Renewal Recommendation	Total 2-year Renewal Grant Max
Boys and Girls Aid	Permanency Services	Renew at full formula	\$524,570
Friends of the Children	Long Term Mentoring	Renew at full formula	\$662,047
Impact NW	Safe and Together	Renew at full formula	\$890,907
IRCO	Foster Care Program	Renew at full formula	\$583,193
Janus Youth Programs	Insights/ECHO	Renew at full formula	\$509,459
NAYA	Foster Care Program	Renew at full formula	\$851,155
New Avenues for Youth	Avenues to College	Renew at full formula	\$809,364
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center	Work Opportunities and Training Program	Renew at full formula	\$309,072
Self Enhancement, Inc.	Foster Care Program	Renew at full formula	\$540,117
Youth Rights and Justice	n/a	Renew at full formula	\$550,565

Mentoring 2-year Grant Renewal Recommendations, 2023- 2025

Organization	Program	Staff Renewal Recommendation	Total 2-year Renewal Grant Max
Campfire	Campfire Columbia Teens Program	Renew at full formula	\$1,263,747
College Possible	College Possible College Access program	Renew at full formula	\$266,059
Friends of the Children	FOTC-Portland Mentoring	Renew at full formula	\$1,355,319
IRCO	RIM Program	Renew at full formula	\$955,495
Latino Network	Padrinos	Renew at full formula	\$655,570
NAYA	College Preparation Mentoring	Renew at full formula	\$450,456
Pathfinders	Mentoring Inside Out	Renew at full formula	\$393,459
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center	School-Based Mentoring, POIC +Rosemary Anderson	Renew at full formula	\$378,059

Hunger Relief 2-year Grant Renewal Recommendations, 2023- 2025

Organization	Program	Staff Renewal Recommendation	Total 2-year Renewal Grant Max
Familias En Accion	Abuela, Mama y Yo	Renew at full formula	\$464,702
Growing Gardens	Youth Grow	Renew at full formula	\$328,589
IRCO	Fresh Market school pantries	Renew at full formula	\$642,433
Meals on Wheels	Meals 4 Kids	Renew at full formula	\$1,626,298
Metropolitan Family Service	School food pantries	Renew at full formula	\$405,674
Neighborhood House	Mobile Food Pantry	Renew at full formula	\$216,570
Oregon Food Bank	School pantries, park fresh markets	Renew at full formula	\$1,568,464
Our Just Future (Human Solutions)	Food Pantry	Renew at full formula	\$170,499
Our Village Gardens	Market and Seeds of Harmony gardens	Renew at full formula	\$365,107
Portland OIC	Food Pantry	Renew at full formula	\$235,290
Sunshine Division	Weekend food for Community Transition School	Reduce base funding based on past 2 years' service level	\$142,800