# Funding Priorities Overview

**Method Used to Create Draft Funding Priorities**

Staff used the full Community Engagement Report prepared by consultant Camille E. Trummer (CET) to draft types of services eligible for funding and desired program features.  The full Community Engagement Report included more data than was presented at the joint Allocation Committee/Community Council meeting in May 2024, and CET also provided staff with the complete dataset from all community and provider surveys.  In some cases, Levy staff consulted this data for more information on priorities and needs of specific groups of survey respondents.

In addition to community engagement results, staff considered the following parameters and limitations:

- **PCL Ballot Measure/Act** requirements to fund direct services for children and families.
- **Law prohibiting** local property tax measures other than local option education levies from funding regular school day operations.
- **The roles played by other major systems** serving children and families such as health care, child welfare, etc.

Community Council reviewed, discussed, edited, and reached consensus on the draft funding priorities for each program area at their May 29, 2024 meeting.  They voted to recommend the funding priorities to the Allocation Committee for adoption. Staff incorporated Community Council edits and feedback into the draft priorities for Allocation Committee review.

**Purpose and Use**

Establishing funding priorities based on community engagement results ensures that PCL funds the services most needed in the community.  Funding priorities communicate to potential applicants whether their program is eligible for PCL funding.

**Types of Services and Program Features**

Funding priorities drafted for each program area include:

- *Types of services* eligible for funding.  Applicants MUST provide at least one of the types of services listed to be eligible for funding.
- *Program features* that community desires.  Applicant programs are NOT required to have the features listed. Program features provide additional information to applicants on community preferences in program delivery and applications that include desired features may score higher.
- *Community Engagement Demographic Results:* In cases where specific groups of community engagement process participants (survey respondents and/or focus group participants) strongly preferred certain services, staff included that information in the "Community Engagement Demographic Results" section of the program area funding priorities.

**Priority Populations**

Priority populations for all PCL funded services are: Black, Indigenous, and Children and Families of Color, children with disabilities, youth who identify as LGBTQ2SIA+, immigrant and refugee children and families, families earning low incomes, and children and families that reside in East Portland or North Portland.

## After School Funding Priorities

The following program services, which are designated as eligible for PCL funding, were highly prioritized in PCL's community engagement process.

**Program Services Eligible for PCL Funding:** Applicants for funding must provide at least one of these services and may provide more than one.

1. Provide activities for youth such as arts, sports, STEM education, and/or youth recreation.
2. Provide hard and soft skill-building, career readiness and internship opportunities for youth.
3. Provide academic support including tutoring and homework assistance.
4. Support healthy social and emotional development, including activities to help youth build healthy peer relationships, reduce feelings of isolation, and learn healthy strategies to manage stress and navigate conflict.
5. Provide activities for youth with disabilities, neurodivergence or developmental delays including arts, sports, STEM education and/or youth recreation.

**Program Features:** Community engagement also indicated that families value programs that have the following features. Applicants are not required to have these features to be eligible for PCL funding; however, programs with these features may score more highly.

A. Supports the cultural identity of youth.
B. Environments and activities that provide integrated and adaptive experiences and fully welcome participation of children with disabilities, neurodivergence, or developmental delays.
C. Environments that intentionally welcome and affirm youth identifying as LGBTQAI+.

**Community Engagement Demographic Results**

Community engagement participants, across different demographics, prioritized particular services. The demographics of those participants are listed in italics under the service below. If no demographic groups are listed under a service, there was no substantial difference in prioritization between demographic groups. This information is provided as additional context for potential applicants for PCL funding in the program area.

1. Provide activities for youth such as arts, sports, STEM education, and/or youth recreation.
2. Provide hard and soft skill-building, career readiness and internship opportunities for youth.
   *Participants 18 or younger.*
3. Provide academic support including tutoring and homework assistance.
   *Latino/x/e, African American/Black, Asian, and Southeast Asian participants; immigrant and refugee participants; participants with preferred languages of Somali, Vietnamese, and Nepali; participants in a household earning less than $50K annually; and single parents/caregivers. PCL's Community Council also prioritized English language learners for this service.*
4. Support healthy social and emotional development, including activities to help youth build healthy peer relationships, reduce feelings of isolation, and learn healthy strategies to manage stress and navigate conflict.
5. Provide activities such as arts, sports, STEM education and/or youth recreation for youth with disabilities, neurodivergence, or developmental delays.

## Child Abuse Prevention/Intervention Funding Priorities

The following program services, which are designated as eligible for PCL funding, were highly prioritized in PCL's community engagement process.

**Program Services Eligible for PCL Funding:**  Applicants for funding must provide at least one of these services and may provide more than one.

1. Connect families to resources like food, utility payments, housing or rental assistance, and other basic needs.
2. Connect parents/caregivers with each other and reduce isolation.
3. Support parents/caregivers and youth experiencing grief and stress to learn coping skills.
4. Help children, youth, and families navigate multiple systems including child welfare, and access to mental/behavioral health and legal services.
5. Support the healing of families impacted by violence.
6. Offer support and resources to teen parents, including learning about child development and behavior, identifying and expressing feelings, helping children learn skills to handle stress, supporting children and families experiencing grief and stress learn skills to cope, access to substance use intervention and supports, and connecting parents to resources for basic needs.

**Program Features:** Community engagement also indicated that families value programs that have the following features. Applicants are not required to have these features to be eligible for PCL funding; however, programs with these features may score more highly.

A. Access to services on evenings and weekends.
B. Confidential advocates for youth within appropriate ethical and legal frameworks to ensure safety and healing.

**Community Engagement Demographic Results**

Community engagement participants, across different demographics, prioritized particular services. The demographics of those participants are listed in italics under the service below. If no demographic groups are listed under a service, there was no substantial difference in prioritization between demographic groups. This information is provided as additional context for potential applicants for PCL funding in the program area.

1.  Connect families to resources like food, utility payments, housing or rental assistance, and other basic needs.
    *Single parents/caregivers, participants without enough food, participants who experienced houselessness, participants with a disability, a parent/caregiver of a child with a disability, and immigrants and refugees.*
2.  Connect parents/caregivers with each other and reduce isolation.
    *Participants who experienced houselessness.*
3.  Support parents/caregivers and youth experiencing grief and stress to learn coping skills.
    *Participants with a disability, a parent/caregiver of a child with a disability, and participants who experienced houselessness.*
4.  Help children, youth, and families navigate multiple systems including child welfare, and access to mental/behavioral health and legal services.
5.  Support the healing of families impacted by violence.
    *Participants who experienced houselessness and single parents/caregivers.*
6.  Offer support and resources to teen parents, including learning about child development and behavior, identifying and expressing feelings, helping children learn skills to handle stress, supporting children and families experiencing grief and stress learn skills to cope, access to substance use intervention and supports, and connecting parents to resources for basic needs.

## Early Childhood Funding Priorities

The following program services, which are designated as eligible for PCL funding, were highly prioritized in PCL's community engagement process.

**Program Services Eligible for PCL Funding:**  Applicants for funding must provide at least one of these services and may provide more than one.

1. Offer financial assistance to families for childcare.
2. Help families learn about child behavior and development including managing difficult behavior.
3. Help children identify and express feelings.
4. Help parents and caregivers of children with disabilities, neurodivergence, or developmental delays with parenting needs, including system navigation to help children access physical, occupational, and speech therapy.
5. Offer community-based pre/post natal maternal education.

**Program Features:** Community engagement also indicated that families value programs that have the following features. Applicants are not required to have these features to be eligible for PCL funding; however, programs with these features may score more highly.

A. Culturally responsive staff share the cultural identity of the family served.
B. Services available in the languages spoken by families served.
C. For childcare settings, offer care outside of typical Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm workweek and assure care is safe and trustworthy.
D. Environments co-created with families and that cater to children with various levels of ability and disability.
E. Training for childcare providers and caregivers on healthy development for neurodivergent children.
F. System navigation for children and families to access basic needs (including but not limited to housing, utilities, and food), health care, and/or other supportive services.

**Community Engagement Demographic Results**

Community engagement participants, across different demographics, prioritized particular services. The demographics of those participants are listed in italics under the service below. If no demographic groups are listed under a service, there was no substantial difference in prioritization between demographic groups. This information is provided as additional context for potential applicants for PCL funding in the program area.

1. Offer financial assistance to families for childcare.
2. Help families learn about child behavior and development including managing difficult behavior.
3. Help children identify and express feelings.
      *American Indian/Alaska Native, African American/Black, Asian, and Latino/x/e participants.*
4. Help parents and caregivers of children with disabilities, neurodivergence, or developmental delays with parenting needs, including system navigation to help children access physical, occupational, and speech therapy.
5. Offer community-based pre/post natal maternal education.

## Foster Care Funding Priorities

The following program services, which are designated as eligible for PCL funding, were highly prioritized in PCL's community engagement process.

**Program Services Eligible for PCL Funding:**  Applicants for funding must provide at least one of these services and may provide more than one.

1. Support for older foster youth to enter college and/or the workforce, find housing, and live on their own.
2. Support for foster youth to understand their cultural and racial identity.
3. Support and create opportunities for connection and/or reunification between foster youth and birth families, including but not limited to mental health services.
4. Support for foster parents to create a welcoming home and provide supportive care for youth who identify as LGBTQIA+.
5. Help for foster youth and their foster families and birth parents to navigate multiple systems, especially to access mental and behavioral health services.
6. Provide services that support and improve youth mental health, especially for youth who identify as LGBTQAI+.
7. Mentoring for foster youth and/or for birth parents of youth in foster care, especially by mentors who share similar experiences with the foster care system.

**Program Features:** Community engagement also indicated that families value programs that have the following features. Applicants are not required to have these features to be eligible for PCL funding; however, programs with these features may score more highly.

A. Staff that reflect the racial, cultural, sexual, and gender identities of foster youth.
B. Consistent, long-term relationships for foster youth as they navigate transitions.
C. Support social-emotional development of foster youth.
D. Culturally responsive practices.

**Community Engagement Demographic Results**

Community engagement participants, across different demographics, prioritized particular services. The demographics of those participants are listed in italics under the service below. If no demographic groups are listed under a service, there was no substantial difference in prioritization between demographic groups. This information is provided as additional context for potential applicants for PCL funding in the program area.

1. Support for older foster youth to enter college and/or the workforce, find housing, and live on their own.
   *Foster care parents, participants with a disability, and children or youth who are or were in foster care.*
2. Support for foster youth to understand their cultural and racial identity.
   *African American/Black, Latino/x/e, and Middle Eastern/North African participants; foster care parents; children or youth who are or were in foster care; and LGBTQAI+ youth.*
3. Support and create opportunities for connection and/or reunification between foster youth and birth families, including but not limited to mental health services.
   *African American/Black and Latino/x/e participants.*
4. Support for foster parents to create a welcoming home and provide supportive care for youth who identify as LGBTQIA+.
5. Help for foster youth and their foster families and birth parents to navigate multiple systems, especially to access mental and behavioral health services.
6. Provide services that support and improve youth mental health, especially for youth who identify as LGBTQAI+.
7. Mentoring for foster youth and/or for birth parents of youth in foster care, especially by mentors who share similar experiences with the foster care system.

## Hunger Relief Funding Priorities

The following program services, which are designated as eligible for PCL funding, were highly prioritized in PCL's community engagement process.

**Program Services Eligible for PCL Funding:**  Applicants for funding must provide at least one of these services and may provide more than one.

1. Food pantries offered at community locations.
2. Food pantries at schools.
3. Free groceries and/or ready-to-eat meals delivered to families' homes.
4. Classes for children and families on nutrition, cooking, and/or gardening.
5. Access to gardens for families to grow food.

**Program Features:** Community engagement also indicated that families value programs that have the following features. Applicants are not required to have these features to be eligible for PCL funding; however, programs with these features may score more highly.

A. Offer culturally specific foods.
B. Access to food grown and sold by people of the same culture as the family.
C. Provide families with the option to select the food they want.
D. Increase access and awareness of financial assistance programs to cover the cost of food and basic needs, including household and hygiene needs.
E. Focused outreach to mothers for prenatal and postnatal nutrition support and nutrition education, and resources such as diapers, formula, and other home hygiene needs.
F. Digital outreach and education methods for nutrition education, such as social media or other virtual methods.
G. Access to a community kitchen for cooking resources or access to kitchen appliances.

**Community Engagement Demographic Results**

Community engagement participants, across different demographics, prioritized particular services. The demographics of those participants are listed in italics under the service below. If no demographic groups are listed under a service, there was no substantial difference in prioritization between demographic groups. This information is provided as additional context for potential applicants for PCL funding in the program area.

1. Food pantries offered at community locations.

   *Single parents/caregivers, participants in households earning between $25-75K annually, and parents/caregivers of children ages 19-24.*

2. Food pantries at schools.

   *Latino/x/e participants and participants with a preferred language of Vietnamese.*

3. Free groceries and/or ready-to-eat meals delivered to families' homes.

   *African American/Black and American Indian/Alaska Native participants, participants with a disability, parents/caregivers of a child with a disability, single parents/caregivers, and teenage parents.*

4. Classes for children and families on nutrition, cooking, and/or gardening.

   *Participants with preferred languages of Nepali, Russian, and Somali.*

5. Access to gardens for families to grow food.

   *Middle Eastern/North African participants; participants with preferred languages of Somali, Russian, and Nepali; and participants in a household earning less than $75K annually.*

## Mentoring Funding Priorities

The following program services, which are designated as eligible for PCL funding, were highly prioritized in PCL's community engagement process.

**Program Services Eligible for PCL Funding:** Applicants for funding must provide at least one of these services and may provide more than one.

1. Offer activities to increase social connections, reduce isolation, and affirm identities among youth and families with similar identities.
2. Support youth, ages 14-24, to complete a pre-apprenticeship program, prepare for employment and/or college and/or complete an apprenticeship, post-secondary credential program or college degree.
3. Offer identity-specific support, opportunities and mental health resources for youth to express their feelings and heal from trauma, grief, and experiences of violence.
4. Offer services that prevent youth from joining gangs and reduce gang involvement.
5. Offer mentoring services that affirm the cultural, racial, gender, LGBTQAI+ identities of youth and families.
6. Help youth develop leadership skills.

**Program Features:** Community engagement also indicated that families value programs that have the following features. Applicants are not required to have these features to be eligible for PCL funding; however, programs with these features may score more highly.

A. Consistent, long-term, professional mentors who work with youth over multiple years.
B. Mentors who reflect the cultural, racial, disabilities, sexual orientation and/or gender identities of youth and families.
C. Family engagement and language support, especially for parents who speak English as a second language and need support connecting with school communities and basic services.
D. Transportation to services or services in places where youth and families naturally gather such as culturally specific organizations, community centers, school sites and with hours on weekends, evenings, and in the summer.
E. Strengths-based, empowering approaches.

F.  System navigation across multiple systems, for families and youth, especially access to health and mental well-being services including addiction and harm reduction education for youth.
G.  Training for staff to create LGBTQAI+ and gender-welcoming environments.
H.  Trauma-informed, culturally responsive strategies for prevention and reduction of gang involvement.

**Community Engagement Demographic Results**

Community engagement participants, across different demographics, prioritized particular services. The demographics of those participants are listed in italics under the service below. If no demographic groups are listed under a service, there was no substantial difference in prioritization between demographic groups. This information is provided as additional context for potential applicants for PCL funding in the program area.

1. Offer activities to increase social connections, reduce isolation, and affirm identities among youth and families with similar identities.

   *Participants with disabilities; parents/caregivers of a child with a disability; participants with preferred languages of Somali and Vietnamese; Middle Eastern/North African, Native American/Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander participants; and LGBTQAI+ participants.*

2. Support youth, ages 14-24, to prepare and plan for employment and/or college.

   *Youth; participants with disabilities; parents/caregivers of a child with a disability; participants with preferred languages of Russian, Ukrainian, and Nepali; and Native American/Alaskan Native participants.*

3. Offer identity-specific support, opportunities and mental health resources for youth to express their feelings and heal from trauma, grief, and experiences of violence.

   *Middle Eastern/North African, Native American/Alaskan Native, and African American/Black participants; and LGBTQAI+ participants.*

4. Offer services that prevent youth from joining gangs and reduce gang involvement.

   *Latino/x/e participants; and participants with preferred languages of Nepali and Somali.*

5. Offer mentoring services that affirm the cultural, racial, gender, LGBTQAI+ identities of youth and families.

   *Middle Eastern/North African, Native American/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Asian, and LGBTQAI+ participants.*

6. Help youth develop leadership skills.

   *Native American/Alaska Native participants and participants with preferred languages of Nepali and Russian.*