

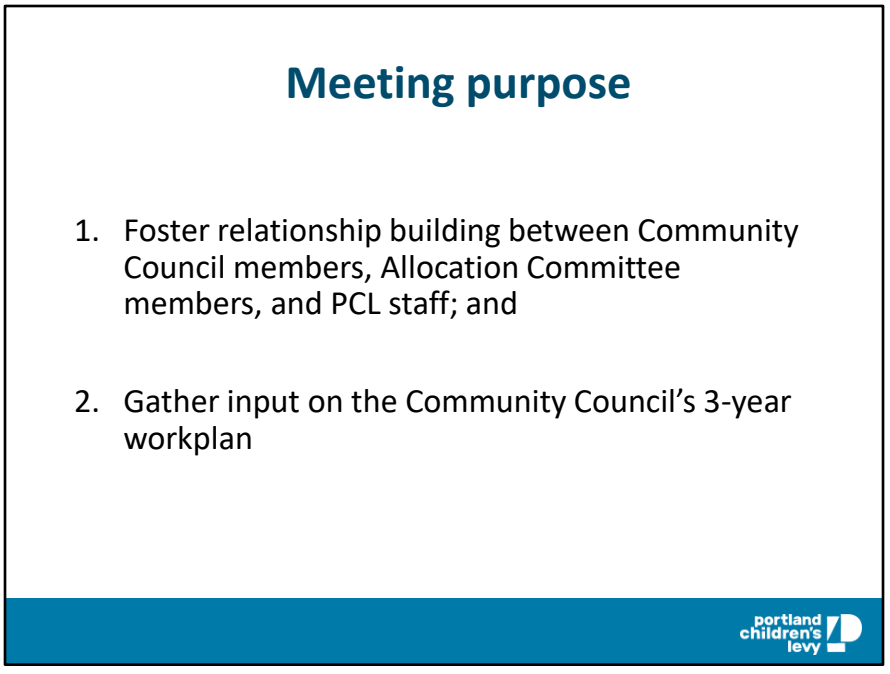
portland children's levy

Community Council Meeting
September 30, 2026

Katrina speaking

Welcome
Welcome everyone! My name is Katrina Peterson, and I am the Policy and Engagement Coordinator here at the Levy. I am overjoyed to welcome everyone to the 2nd term of the Community Council! We are delighted to have 7 new Community Council members join 6 continuing members for the Community Council's next 3-year term. Before we dig into the meeting overview and housekeeping, I want to turn it over to members of our Allocation Committee, the Levy's decision-making body, to join me in welcoming all of you.

Allocation Committee Welcomes
Felicia & Commissioner Moyer



Katrina speaking

Meeting Overview
The purpose of today's meeting is to:
1. Foster relationship building between Community Council members, Allocation Committee members, and PCL staff, and
2. Gather input on the Community Council's 3-year workplan

We'll do this by spending the first 40 minutes on relationship building activities, including an icebreaker and round of introductions. After this, we'll spend about 2 hours workplanning. I'll cover that portion of the agenda once we get there.

We also have some time for public comment at the beginning of today's meeting. This will be a standing agenda item for foreseeable Community Council meetings given that the Levy is no longer running a funding process.

For those who are new to the Community Council, I want to share that this is a public meeting. Open Signal produces and livestreams the meeting to YouTube where it is saved and available to watch for public record. Audio and visual recordings occur throughout the entire meeting except during solo reflection and small group work, during which audio is not recorded or broadcast.

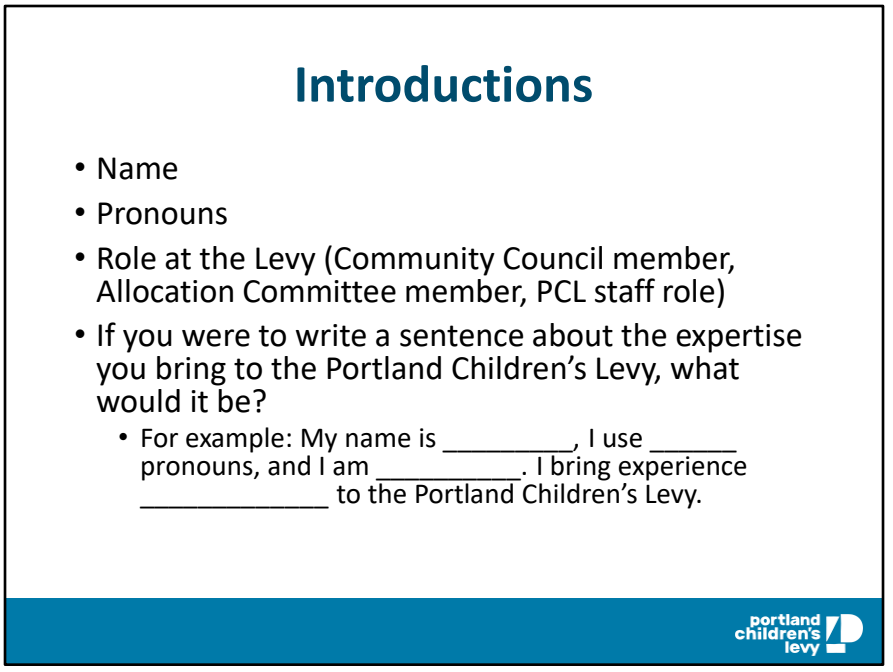
When you would like to speak, press the button at the base of your mic. A green light indicates when the mic is on. Bring the microphone close to your mouth while speaking. Even if other in

person attendees might be able to hear you without a microphone, virtual attendees can only hear what is said into a microphone. When you are done speaking, press the same button to turn the mic off.

If you need to use the restroom, you can find it through the doors, down the hallway, and to the right. We'll have a 5-min break around 6:35pm. Please take care of yourself throughout the meeting as you need to: stand up, stretch, move around, grab food/water, and do what you need to do to stay engaged.

Finally, I want to share that one of our Community Council members, Saara Hirsi, is blind. As a part of creating an accessible environment I have a couple of asks. First, please state your name before speaking. We're new to each other, it can be hard or not possible to read name placards or name tags, and we're in a hybrid environment where folks joining virtually can't always see who's speaking in person. Second, please don't move Saara's cane and third, be mindful not to bump into her or each other. If anyone has any accommodation requests that you want us to be aware of, please let me know.

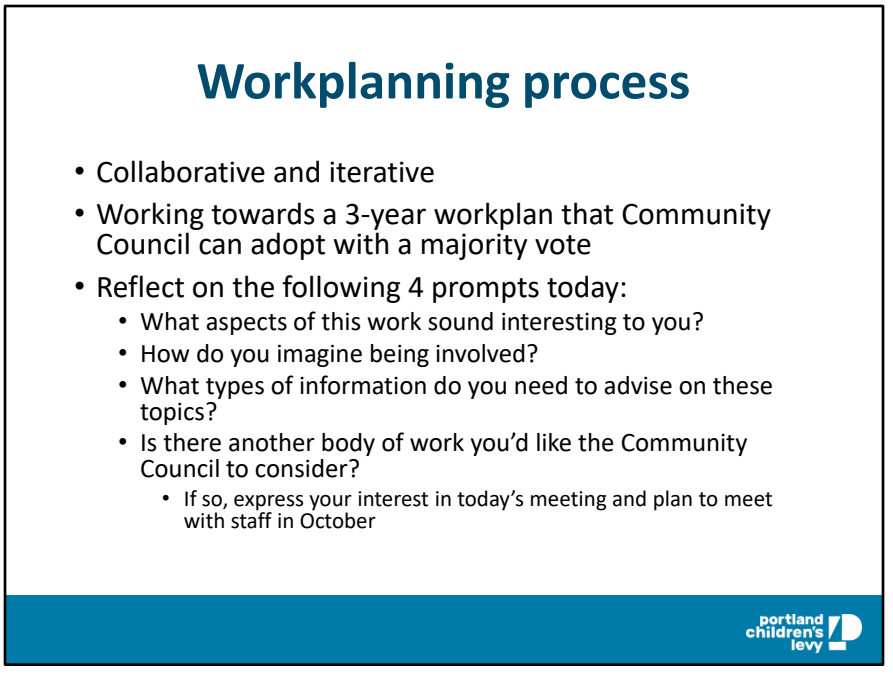
Does anyone have any questions about the meeting purpose, agenda, or housekeeping items before we move on?



Arika speaking

Thank you all for giving that icebreaker a whirl! We're going to do a round of introductions with the entire group to continue to get to know one another. We'll go around in a circle and you'll share your:

- Name
- Pronouns
- Role at the Levy (Community Council member, Allocation Committee member, PCL staff role), and
- If you were to write a sentence about the expertise you bring to the Portland Children's Levy, what would it be?
    - For example: My name is _____, I use _____ pronouns, and I am _____. I bring experience _____ to the Portland Children's Levy.



Katrina speaking

At this point we're going to transition to workplanning. This will be a collaborative and iterative process between staff and Community Council members over the course of several meetings. The goal is to land a 3-year workplan that the Community Council can adopt with a majority vote.

To get there, today's meeting will focus on building shared understanding about the Levy's work; opportunities to advise and influence Levy policies, processes, and decision-making; brainstorming; and discussion.

We will begin with an overview of the Levy's next 3 years of work and opportunities to advise on and influence that work. After these presentations there will be time for solo reflection, small group work, an interest poll, and large group work.

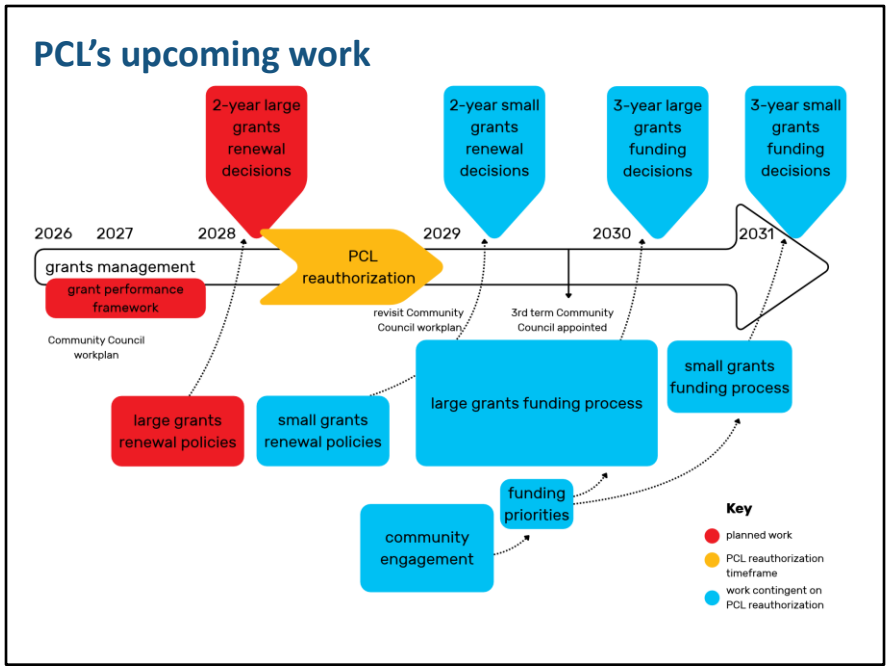
There are 4 prompts that we'd like you to consider throughout this meeting:
What aspects of this work sound interesting to you?
How do you imagine being involved?
What types of information do you need to advise on these topics?
Is there another body of work you'd like the Community Council to consider?

If there is another body of work you'd like the Community Council to consider, we ask that you meet with staff to discuss and clarify the purpose and scope of that work in October before our next meeting. Please express your interest during small and large group work and staff will take note and follow up.

Using the results of today's discussion, staff will draft a workplan to bring to the next Community Council meeting.

Before we move on to questions, I want to remind everyone that the Community Council's role is to advise staff and the Allocation Committee on Levy policies and procedures. The Allocation Committee is the Levy's key decision-making body, as required in our authorizing legislation.

What questions do you have about the upcoming workplanning process?



Arika speaking

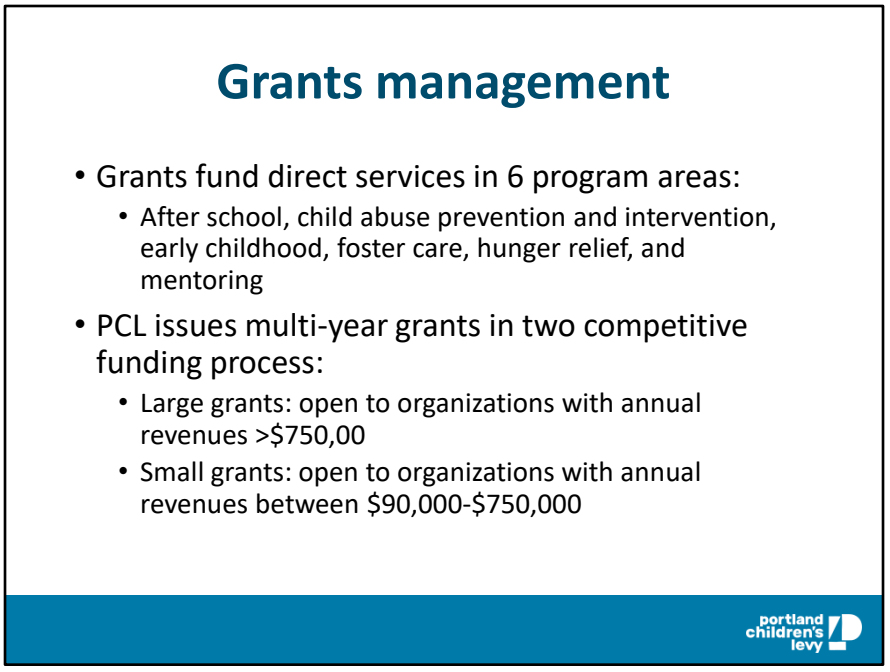
We're going to spend the next 20 minutes orienting you to the Levy's upcoming work and opportunities for Community Council participation. We'll outline the upcoming 4 ½ years of work to give you a sense of how the work we'll do during this council's 3-year term will impact projects and decisions that are made after the conclusion of your term. The Levy's work is cyclical, as it is usually reauthorized every 5 years depending on voter support. As a result, the work illustrated here repeats, with variations and evolution, every 5 years. Community Council members who participated in the 1st term will recognize the work laid out in the 2nd half of this timeline.

I'm going to describe the components of the visual before we dive into the details.

- Time is represented chronologically along the arrow, starting with our current year 2026 on the far left and ending with 2031 on the far right.
- The horizontal arrow represents work that is ongoing throughout the Levy's existence. This includes grants management.
- The yellow arrowhead on top of the arrow between 2028 and 2029 represents the time during which the Portland Children's Levy could be up for reauthorization by Portland voters.
- The red and blue colors indicate which work is planned versus which work is contingent on PCL reauthorization.

- The tabs above the arrow represent decision points. In spring 2028, the Allocation Committee will make 2-year large grants renewal decisions. If the Levy is referred to voters and reauthorized, the Allocation Committee would make 2-year small grant renewal decisions in spring 2029, 3-year large grant funding decisions in spring 2030, and 3-year small grant funding decisions in spring 2031.
- The rectangles below the arrow represent projects and policies staff and Allocation Committee members anticipate working on. The size of the rectangle roughly corresponds to the amount of work. The rectangle's placement along the timeline roughly corresponds to when that work takes place. The dotted arrows trace how each body of work feeds into another and decisions that are made at a later date.
- Finally, the small black text beneath the large timeline arrow represents work projects specific to the Community Council.

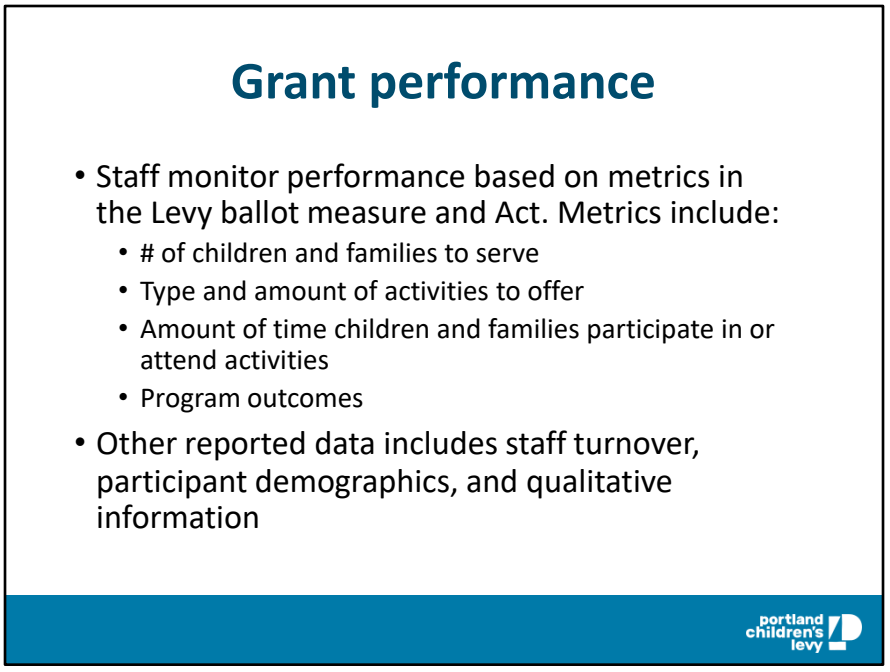
Let's start with grants management. As you know, PCL grants money to community-based organizations across Portland. Grants management is ongoing, and in this visual is represented by the arrow through time.



Arika speaking

As a reminder:

- PCL funds grants for direct services with children and families. PCL does not fund general operating support to organizations.
- Grants are made in each of PCL's 6 program areas: after school, child abuse prevention and intervention, early childhood, foster care, hunger relief, and mentoring. Program areas are outlined by PCL's authorizing legislation.
- Grants are issued to provide services that are prioritized through community engagement. These services are called funding priorities. Funding priorities are unique to each program area. The prior term of the Community Council advised staff and the Allocation Committee on what should be included as a funding priority.
- PCL issues multi-year grants in each of the Levy's 6 program areas through two competitive funding processes: large grants and small grants.
- Large grants provide stable, multiyear funding to larger nonprofit organizations with annual revenues over $750,000.
- Small grants started in 2020 in response to community feedback, with the goal of increasing access to PCL funds for smaller nonprofits and strengthening their capacity to serve children, youth and families. In the most recent funding round, organizations with annual revenues of $90,000 to $750,000 were eligible to apply.
- PCL grants operate for 3 years with the option to be renewed for 2 years. PCL has 94 large grants that run from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028, and 12 small grants that operate July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029.

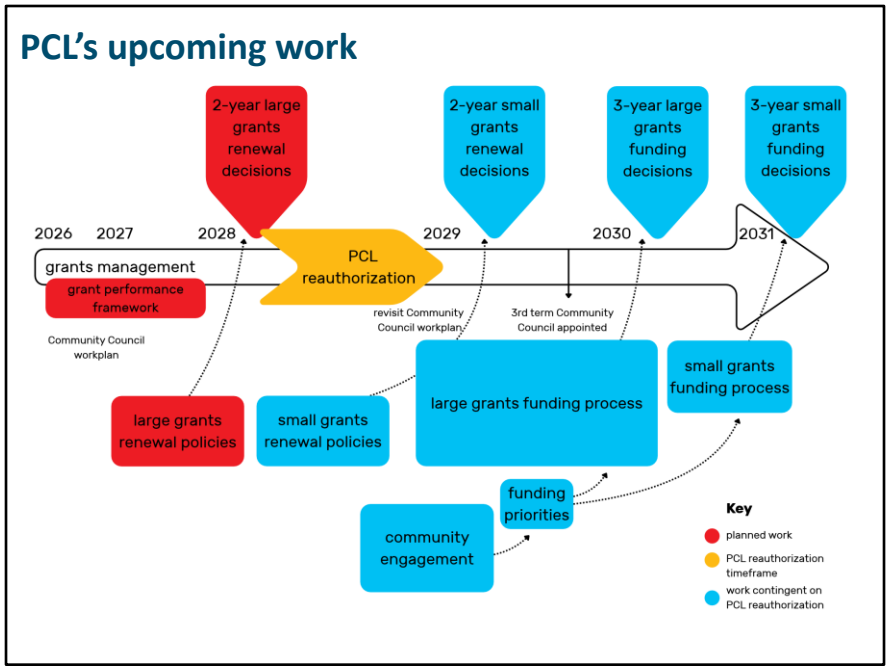


Brian speaking

One area of grants management during 2026 and 2027 will focus on grant performance.

- PCL has managed grant performance since its inception, and we periodically update how we measure performance.
- Staff monitor grant performance based on metrics in the Levy ballot measure and Act, which make up PCL's authorizing legislation.
- Each grant has goals related to PCL's required metrics. Grantees report progress with those goals at mid-year and year-end. PCL staff review the reports, analyze progress, meet with grantees, and if needed, request additional information, including quarterly monitoring.
- Metrics for grantee goals include: the number of children and families to serve, the type and amount of activities to offer, the amount of time children and families are expected to participate or attend activities, and program outcomes
- Other metrics reported include staff turnover and participant demographics

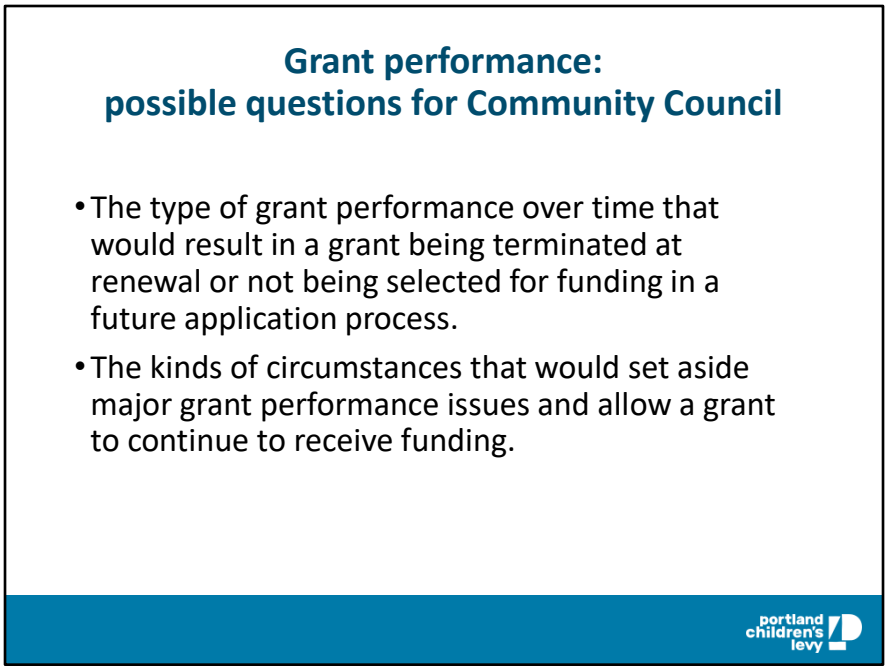
In addition to the metrics, grantees share qualitative information such as reflections on their successes and challenges, and examples of client voice in their work.



Brian speaking

On the visual, there is a long red rectangle stretching across 2026 and into 2027 titled *grant performance framework*. It is touching the arrow because grant performance impacts grant management and future decisions about renewal and funding. As a part of grant management, staff will establish a framework that offers more transparent, consistent definitions for when a grant is performing on track or has moderate or significant concerns.

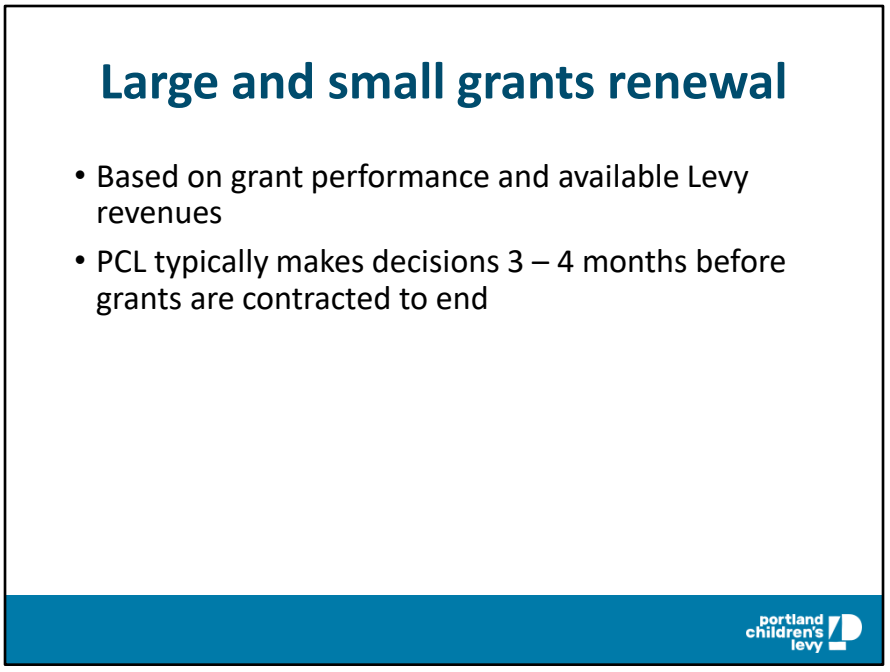
- In the most recent large grants competitive funding process, past grantees who applied for continued funding provided feedback that they would like more clarity on how PCL measures grant performance.
- Staff would use the framework annually to document the performance of each grant, and report grant performance to the Allocation Committee.
- This framework is important because grant performance influences grant renewal and funding decisions. The Allocation Committee will use grant performance as a factor for upcoming large and small grants renewal decisions, and in funding decisions if a grantee applies in a future competitive funding process.



Brian speaking

If the Community Council chose to advise on grant performance, example questions could include:

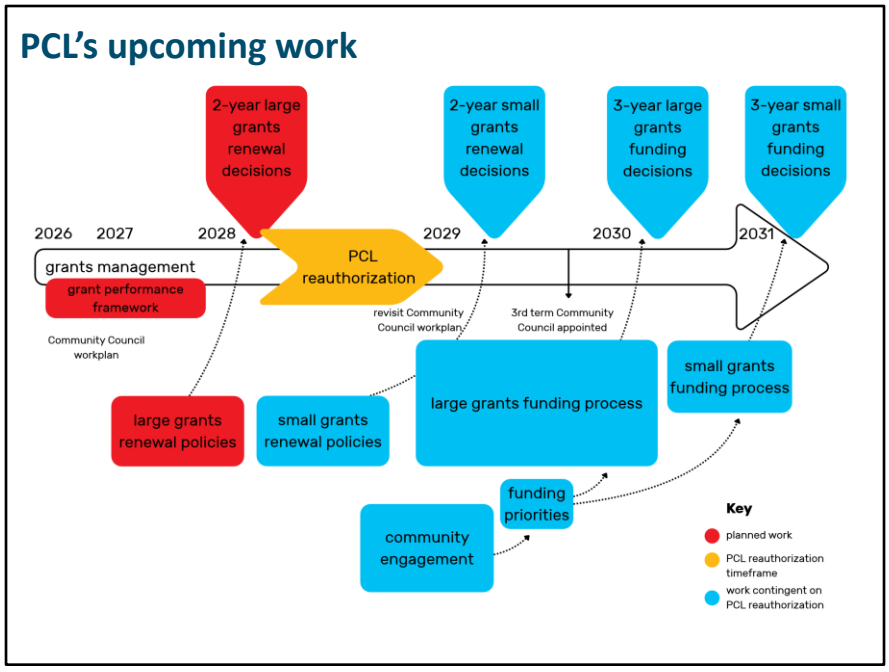
- The type of grant performance over time that would result in a grant being terminated at renewal or not being selected for funding in a future application process.
- The kinds of circumstances that would set aside major grant performance issues and allow a grant to continue to receive funding.



Joel speaking

Another area of grants management during 2027 and 2028 is large and small grants renewal.

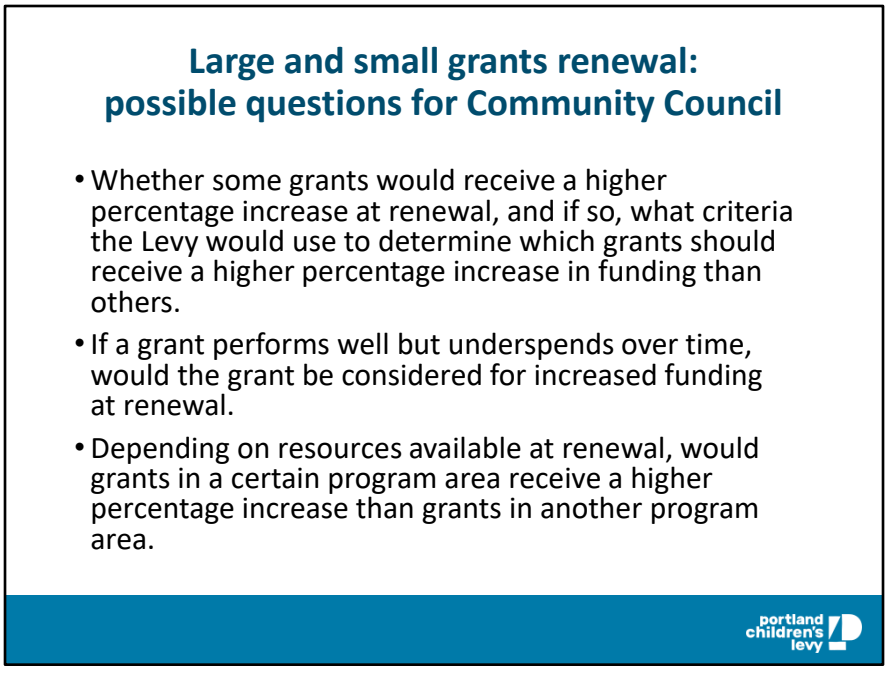
- Grant renewal is based on grant performance and available Levy revenues.
- To ensure that grant recipients have sufficient time for programmatic and financial planning, PCL typically makes decisions about grant renewals 3- 4 months before grants are contracted to end.
- This timeframe allows the Allocation Committee to consider 2 ½ years of grantee performance data in their decision-making. It also allows staff and the Allocation Committee to utilize up-to-date Levy revenue projections in determining the amount of money available at renewal.



Joel speaking

On the visual, this is represented with two rectangles: the first is the red *large grants renewal policies* rectangle in 2027 and the second is the blue *small grants renewal policies* rectangle in 2028. They both feed into corresponding red and blue tabs. *2-year large grants renewal decisions* will be made in the spring of 2028 and *2-year small grants renewal decisions* would be made in the spring of 2029, if the Levy is reauthorized by Portland voters. The small grants renewal process is contingent on PCL reauthorization.

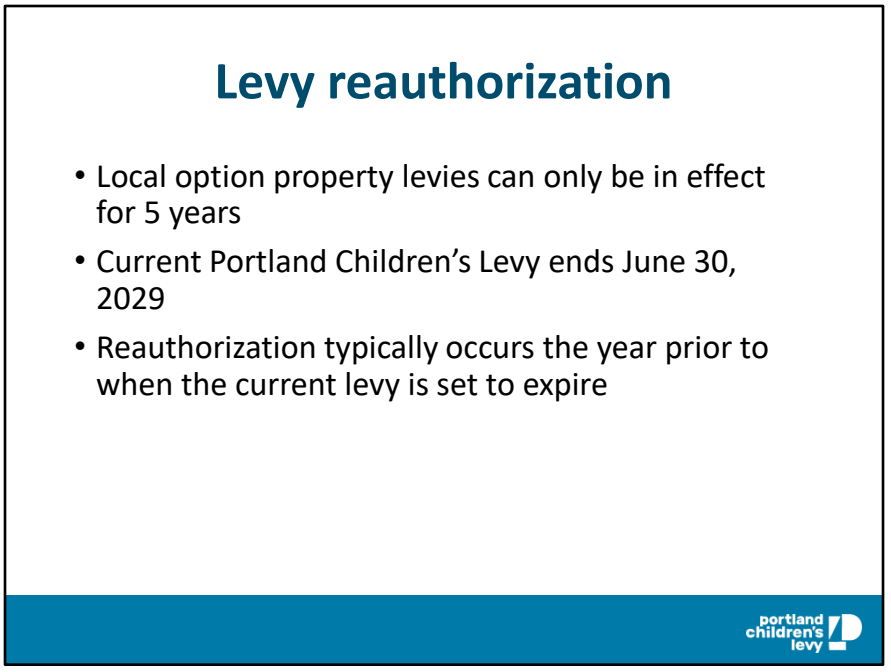
In the 9 – 12 months prior to decision-making, staff will identify major policy questions that the Allocation Committee must consider for staff to prepare renewal funding recommendations. Staff will use Allocation Committee decisions to implement a set of grant renewal recommendations for large grants in early spring 2028 and for small grants in early spring 2029.



Joel speaking

If the Community Council chose to advise on grant renewal policies, example questions could include:

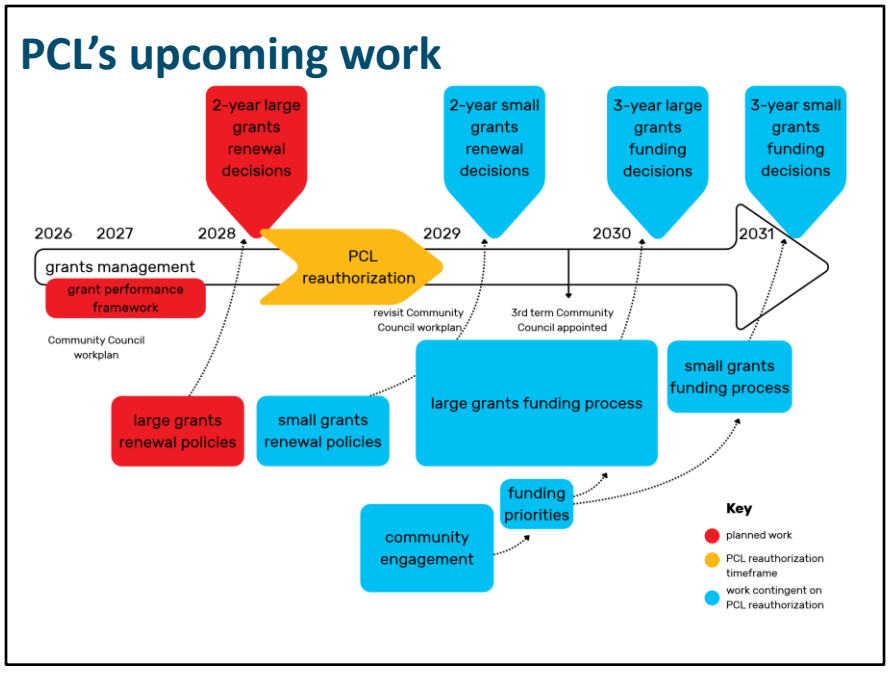
- Whether some grants would receive a higher percentage increase at renewal, and if so, what criteria the Levy would use to determine which grants should receive a higher percentage increase in funding than others.
- If a grant performs well but underspends over time, would the grant be considered for increased funding at renewal.
- Depending on resources available at renewal, would grants in a certain program area receive a higher percentage increase than grants in another program area.



Meg speaking

The Levy's potential referral and reauthorization could occur in 2028 and is represented by the yellow arrowhead. Levy reauthorization is a body of work where staff have little information to share. Here's what we do know:

- By state law, local option property levies can only be in effect for 5 years, and they must go back to voters for reauthorization.
- The current 5-year levy ends June 30, 2029. Typically, reauthorization has occurred in the year prior to when the current levy is set to expire.
- In order for reauthorization to occur, staff would work with city leadership to support Portland City Council's consideration of whether to send the Levy to voters.
- If City Council refers the Levy ballot measure to voters, voters would decide on whether to reauthorize the Portland Children's Levy for another 5 years.
- If the Levy is referred, PCL staff and other public employees are legally prohibited from advocating for or against it on work time, though we are allowed to provide factual information on work time or advocate in our personal time outside of work.



Meg speaking

The work in blue on the right two-thirds of this visual, including small grants renewal policies and decisions, community engagement, funding priority development, and large and small grants funding processes and decisions is dependent on whether voters reauthorize the Levy.

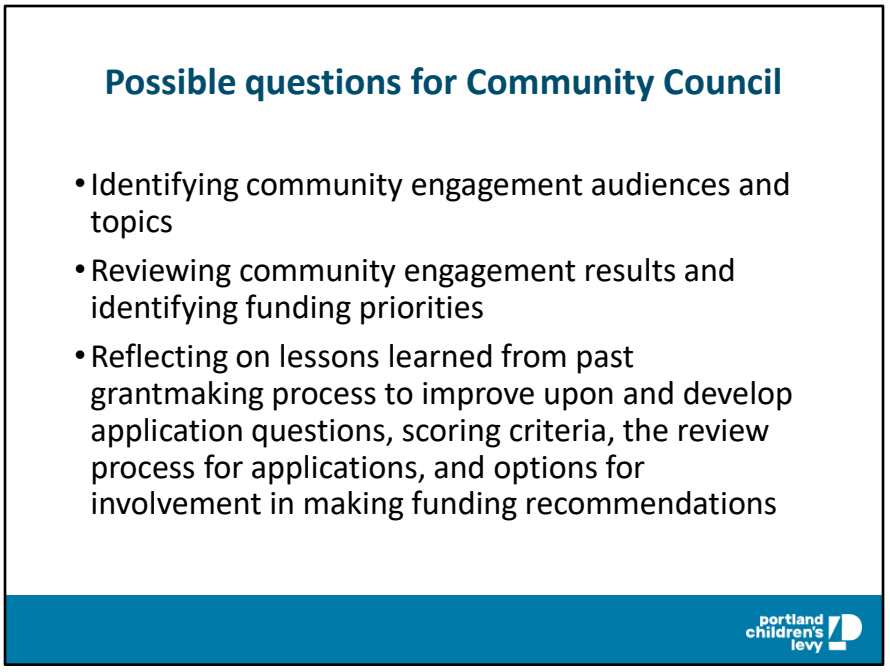
If voters ultimately reauthorize the Levy, we would launch a community engagement process. Those results would prioritize the types of services applicants could apply to deliver in the potential next round of large and small grants. On the visual, these pieces of work are represented by four blue rectangles. *Community engagement* would span from 2028-29 and inform the creation of *funding priorities*, which would be decided in 2029. Funding priorities would be included in both the *large grants funding process,* which spans from 2028 into 2030, and the *small grants funding process*, which spans from 2030 into 2031.

To go into more detail:

- Staff would design and implement a community engagement process to identify community needs in each of PCL's 6 program areas.
- Staff would take the results of community engagement and draft *funding priorities*, which the Allocation Committee would decide on. Funding priorities are the types of

services applicants can apply to deliver to Portlanders and would be included in both large and small grants applications. The relationships between community engagement, funding priorities, the large and small grants funding processes, and funding decisions are illustrated by the dotted arrows feeding from one body of work into the next. Funding priorities are unique to each of PCL's 6 program areas. In addition, staff would develop recommendations and the Allocation Committee would decide how much of the Levy's resources to grant in each of its program areas.

- For both the large and small grants funding processes, staff would incorporate lessons learned from prior grantmaking to design each process, including application questions, scoring criteria, grant review processes, recommendation-making, and decision-making.
- Throughout each funding process, staff's role is to design and implement the process, while the Allocation Committee's role is to decide all phases of the process. The Allocation Committee decides on the community engagement plan, funding priorities from community engagement results, the allocation of Levy resources between the 6 program areas, the application form and scoring criteria, the review and scoring process, and which applicants to fund.

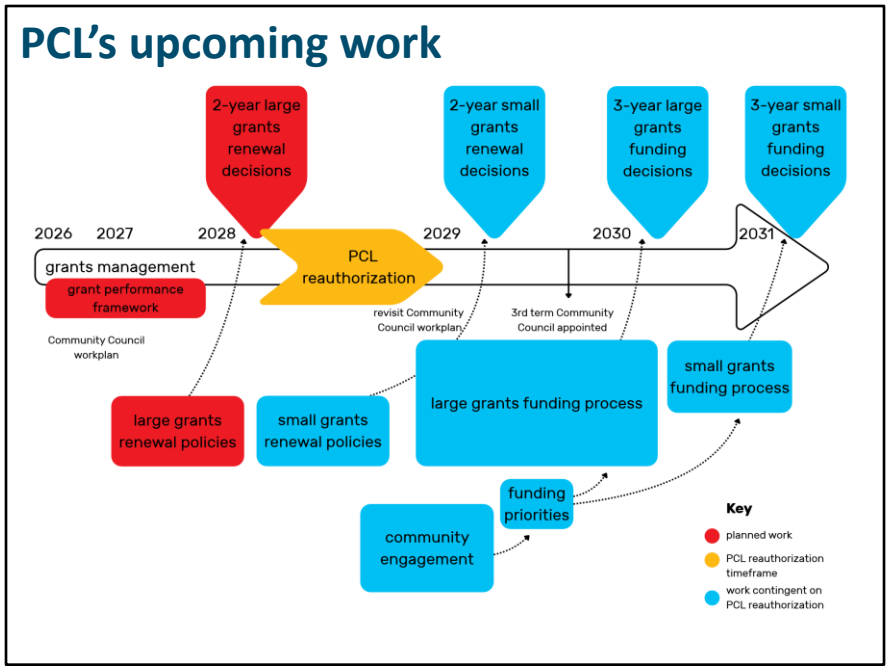


Meg speaking

If the Levy is reauthorized for 5 more years, the Community Council could advise on all aspects of the above process, including:

- Identifying community engagement audiences and topics
- Reviewing community engagement results and identifying funding priorities
- Reflecting on lessons learned from past grantmaking process to improve upon and develop application questions, scoring criteria, the review process for applications, and options for involvement in making funding recommendations

Advising on these issues influences how community engagement is conducted, what services are prioritized for funding, how the large grants funding process is conducted, and what grants are selected for funding.

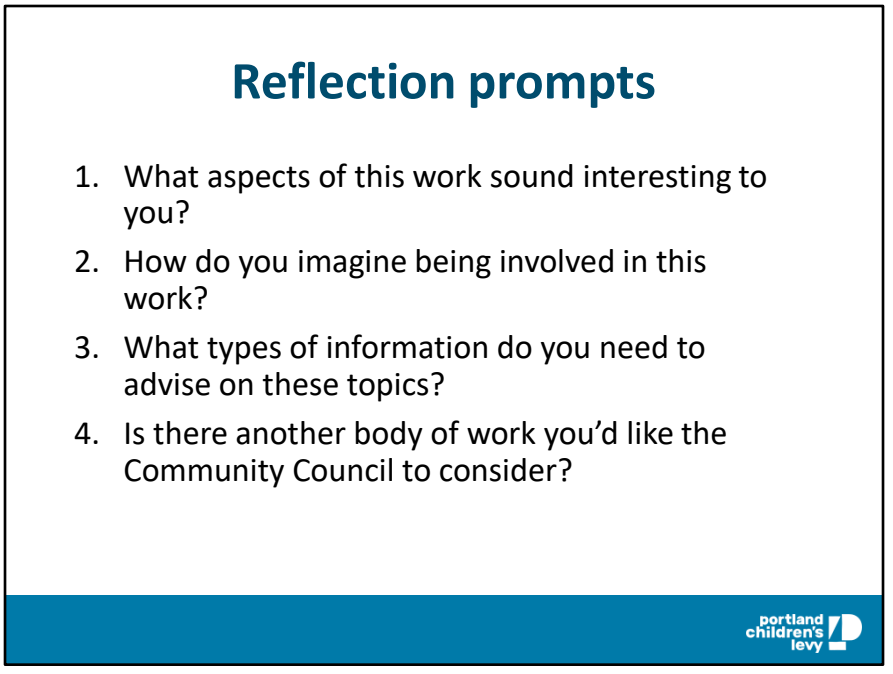


Katrina speaking

Finally, there's small black text below the arrow, describing Community Council specific work. We're currently developing the Community Council's 3-year workplan and propose revisiting the workplan after the potential Levy reauthorization vote to inform the remainder of our work together and make any adjustments needed.

For now, please keep in mind that if the Levy is reauthorized, this Community Council's term would extend through large and small grant renewal decisions, through community engagement and funding priority development, and through the first portion of large grants funding process development and implementation. The conclusion of the large grants funding process and entirety of the small grants funding process would fall under the work of the next Community Council term.

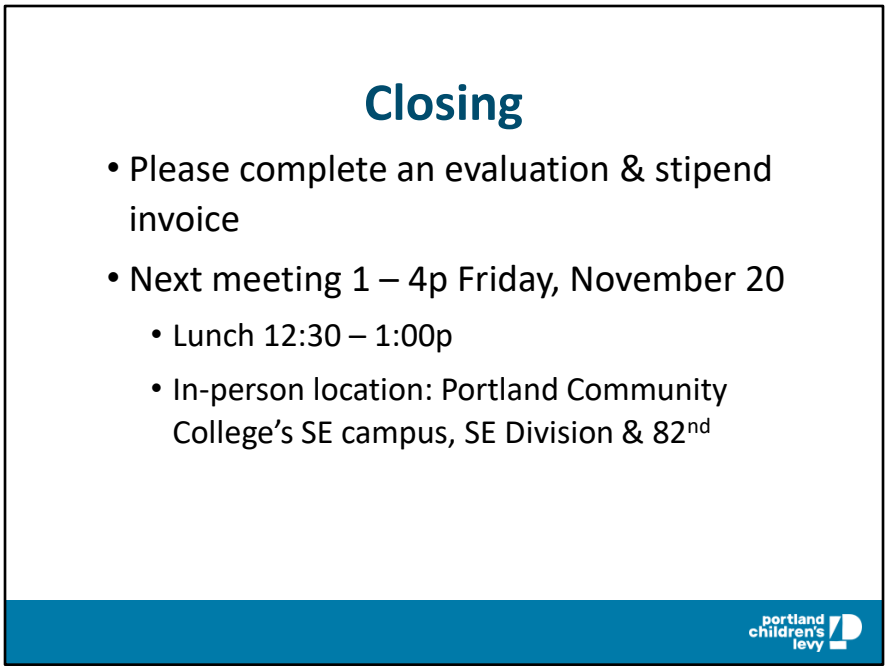
This concludes the overview of the Levy's upcoming 3 years of work, as well as staff's ideas for how to involve the Community Council. At this point, we're going to open it up for clarifying questions and then take a break. Then we'll move into small group work, where you'll have the opportunity to reflect on what aspects of this work sound interesting to you, how you imagine being involved, what types of information you need to advise staff and the Allocation Committee, and if there's another body of work you'd like the Community Council to consider adding. If there is another body of work you'd like to propose, we ask that you meet with staff to discuss and clarify the purpose and scope of that work in October before our next meeting. Please express your interest during small and large group work and staff will take note and follow up.



Katrina speaking

Welcome back. At this point, we want to give you a couple of minutes for quiet, solo reflection to gather your thoughts before moving into group work. Please reflect on the following 4 prompts:
1. What aspects of this work sound interesting to you?
2. How do you imagine being involved in this work?
3. What types of information do you need to advise on these topics?
4. Is there another body of work you'd like the Community Council to consider?

You are welcome to use this time however is helpful to you. You can journal, doodle, go to the bathroom, grab more food or drink, step outside, or do something else quietly until we move into small group work at 6:45.



Meg speaking

Thank you all for your thoughtful engagement with today's material, and thank you to Oregon's Department of Administrative Services for hosting us! Before you leave, please complete the following:

Meeting Evaluation: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/42u7jDPXXM
Stipend invoice (in person or in email)

Katrina included these documents in the reminder email, so you can fill it out online and submit it after the meeting as well.

We'll see you at our next meeting on Friday, November 20! It's from 1 – 4p, with lunch at 12:30. We'll be gathering at Portland Community College's SE campus on Division and 82nd. We'll continue our workplanning, and will also begin to dig into grant performance work. Thanks all!