

Executive Summary of Report Findings

Investment Goals: PCL met its investment goals of increasing access to services in East Portland (38.1% of people served in previous 5-year Levy; 46.2% in 2017-18), and of increasing investment in culturally specific services (31.4% of funds in previous 5-year Levy; 33% in 2017-18). It exceeded its goal of investing at least 30% of funding in culturally specific services across the Levy.

Progress toward Levy-wide Goals: 2017-18 data gathered from grantees show that programs served slightly more children than they projected. Demographic data on clients served by grantees indicate that 68.9% of children served in 2017-18 identified as children of color. The majority of children served were from homes with family incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level, and 30% were from homes in which the primary language spoken was not English. The racial/ethnic diversity of the population accessing Levy services was proportional to, or more diverse than the relevant comparison population (e.g. student population or children in foster care). These data suggest PCL-funded services primarily reached historically underserved populations that face significant systemic barriers and opportunity gaps for achieving positive outcomes.

Additional data reported by PCL grantees show consistent rates of participation in PCL-funded services over the past four years of the current Levy. An average of 79.3% of program participants received the minimum dosage, an improvement over average performance in the previous 5-year Levy (66.6%). Minimum dosage is the amount of service a participant must complete to have the greatest likelihood of achieving program outcomes. In addition, data show near parity between racial/ethnic groups that enrolled in services and those who received the minimum dosage. This data suggests that programs successfully engaged and retained populations of color.

Programs collectively met an average of 81.2% of their outcome goals which is slightly lower than the average for the previous 5-year levy (87.8%). The change is likely attributable to outcome and measurement method changes by continuing grantees, and the addition of 32 new programs funded in the new Levy period. It takes time for new programs to develop expertise in setting and measuring appropriate outcomes. An average of 21.1% of PCL paid staff positions turned over which is slightly higher than average performance in the previous Levy period (18.5%).

Taken together, these data suggest programs made progress with preparing children for school and supporting them to be successful in and out of school. These collective results contribute to community-wide efforts to reduce racial/ethnic disparities in educational outcomes. Data also suggest that PCL can improve by increasing access to services and engaging the sustained participation of particular populations in some program areas.