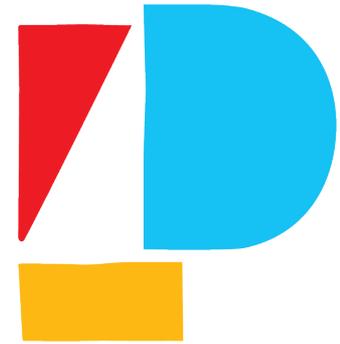




# portland children's levy



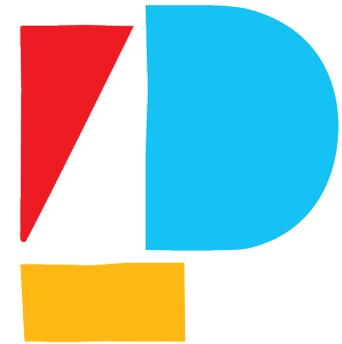
**Allocation Committee**  
**March 30, 2021**

# Revised Revenue Forecast

- **January 2021 Forecast:** Revenues projected to decline by \$3.9 million over 3-year grant period
- Fund balance as of June 2020 was \$12.4 million.
- \$8 million of fund balance was allocated to grants over 3-year grant period
- Remainder of fund balance can be used to fulfill current 3-year grant commitments



**portland  
children's  
levy**



**Small Grants Fund  
Process Feedback**

# Participatory Grantmaking Process

- **Community Conversations, Feb/March 2020**
- **Step 1, May- August 2020**
- **Step 2, September- November 2020**
  - Written application (5 questions)
  - Program grant budgets & Organization budgets
  - Applicant interviews with Community Reviewers
  - Community Reviewers' Funding Recommendations
- **Allocation Committee Decision, November 2020**
- **City Council Approval, December 2020**

# Role of Community Reviewers

- **Decide which applicants to move from Step 1 to Step 2**
- **Make Step 2 funding recommendations to PCL Allocation Committee**

# Methods for Process Feedback

## Two Surveys Completed for Step 1

- Community/Applicant Survey n= 32
  - Questions specific to Application Process n=21
- Reviewer/Design Team Survey n=12

## Two Surveys Completed for Step 2

- Applicant Survey n=6
- Reviewer Survey n=7

**Surveys Questions: Likert scale & open-ended**

# Applicant Feedback: Strengths

Over 85% of Step 1 survey respondents indicated high satisfaction with:

- **Community Conversations**
- **PCL Communications during process**
- **Equity Commitment in process**
- **Access to Materials & Instructions**
- **Inclusivity Planning in the application questions**

*“The questions were reflective of the grant expectation. It helped organizations to reflect about inclusion and better community engagement.”*

# Applicant Feedback: Improvement

## Reviewer Recruitment and Diversity

- Several unsure how PCL recruited reviewers and if they reflected diversity of communities SGF trying to serve.

## Scoring Criteria and Reviewer Feedback

- Some dissatisfaction with review criteria, feedback on forms. Suggestions: more feedback on why application not selected, reviewers meet all applicants, clarify priorities earlier in process.

## Application Process

- Suggestions: More storytelling/visual interactive pieces in Step 1. More time between steps. Clarify budget instructions. Funding cycles by program area.

# Applicant Feedback: Improvement

## Continued Work in Disability (2 comments):

- “...fuller recognition of disability within the equity lens -- we appreciate the focus on race and intersectionality but believe that disability gets lost often in this conversation - especially for people with intellectual disability and very complex support needs.”
- didn't feel that there were enough supports for other orgs (non-disability-focused) to provide support for children with disabilities.

# Reviewer Feedback: Strengths

**PCL Communication** during review process-  
culturally responsive, accommodating needs (food,  
breaks, accessibility) during training & meetings.

**Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion** in  
small grants process overall

**Reviewer Training and Group Meetings** including  
diversity of reviewers, relationship building, timing  
and pacing of training, sections of score sheet

# Reviewer Feedback: Improvement

## Application Scoring Sheet & Criteria

Likert question data and qualitative responses

*“The misunderstanding around how to score and the way the questions were structured actually caused the culturally specific groups PCL was trying to reach to be scored lower overall. This absolutely needs to be addressed before your next grant cycle.”*

## Reviewer Training

A few indicated the training didn't help build trust among reviewers or help them understand how to use the score sheet.

# Reviewer Feedback: Improvement

## Final Decision-making process

Some recommended clarifying priorities earlier in the process, adding more training on scoring sheet.

## Applicant interviews

A few reviewers felt the interviews didn't allow organizations to showcase their strengths. Others suggested improving interview scoring criteria.

## Priority Communities & Populations

LGBTQIA2+ multiple mentions in qualitative data.

# Priority Communities & Populations

*“I'd love to see some messaging from PCL to the general community and other granting orgs about what we learned in this process re: oral communication vs written communication and how that can create inherent disparity in a grant review process, and also how it highlighted that even among orgs representing marginalized communities, that LGBTQIA2+ and disabled youth are in need of well informed and focused attention and programming.”*

# Conclusion & Implications

## **Applicants and Reviewers feedback together:**

- High level of satisfaction with communication, support received from PCL staff
- Process reflected a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Improvements needed to review process, such as how PCL communicates about reviewer recruitment, qualifications, and training, and the scoring criteria used by reviewers

# Data Limitations

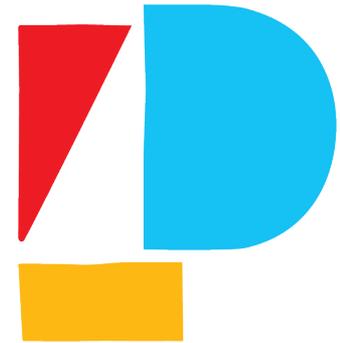
- COVID-19 impacted options for community engagement, and interactive process.
- Step 2 data sample size is very small.
- Very little data about organizations that participated in community conversations and applicant information sessions but chose not to apply and why.

# Small Grants Fund Design Team Recommendations for Improvement





**portland  
children's  
levy**



**2019-20 Grantmaking  
Process Feedback**

# Changes to Grantmaking Process

## Community Engagement priorities

- Racial equity; services led/delivered by community intended to serve

## PSU's qualitative evaluation of grantmaking

- 30 recommendations
- Focused on equity & transparency

## Preliminary Report Sept 2020

- Focused on how process changes affected funding results

## Follow-Up Report 2021

- Focused on qualitative feedback and includes Small Grants Fund pilot

# 2019-20 Process Changes

**RFI redesign:** applicant questions and scoring criteria focus on equity: organizational commitment, staffing, practices, programming

**Transparent, ongoing support to applicant:** website FAQ, weekly Q&A email digest to applicants; updates about timeline and steps

**Community volunteer reviewers:** outreach, screening, experience in PCL program areas and equity practices, training and individual check-ins, providing stipends

**Revamp applicant testimony process:** include written and video options. Provided applicants with staff's funding recommendations and reviewers scores sheets prior to testimony and funding decision meetings.

# Methods for Process Feedback

## Reviewer Survey

- 54/63 reviewers responded to anonymous online survey sent by PCL
- 26 (48%) identified as BIPOC, 24 as white, 2 no data

## Applicant Survey

- 44 of 131 (35%) of individuals responded to online survey from PCL
- Anonymous; cannot determine how many applicants represented. Caution interpreting results.

**Surveys Questions: Likert scale & open-ended**

# Reviewer Feedback: Strengths

## Being a reviewer

- Likert data: All agree it was a positive experience.
- Positive comments (25 reviewers)

## Understanding applicants' commitment to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion

- Application questions helped them understand applicants' commitment

# Reviewer Feedback: Improvement

- **Application focus on racial equity, diversity, inclusion, including criteria:** tension in comments- more specific structure; less structure & more flexibility
- **Application questions:** Less burden for applicants- shorten, simplify, better instruction to applicants
- **Score form:** Form mechanics (Excel auto calculate, more scoring guidance)
- **PCL Support of Reviewers:** more training, practice
- **Time to review & stipends:** more time, fewer applications, and/or increased stipends

# Applicant Feedback: Strengths

**PCL Communication & Transparency:** email and social media updates about process & timeline, weekly Q/A, staff recommendations before testimony.

*“The communication was amazing! Above and beyond what I expected, especially given the circumstances of COVID-19, but also prior to the pandemic. Thank you for the thorough information and support.”*

**Testimony Changes:** options for written/oral better than testimony during public meetings

**Reviewer Score forms to all Applicants:** provided weeks before applicants had to submit testimony

# Applicant Feedback: Improvement

## Allocation Committee Decision-Making Process

- Several didn't understand process used to facilitate meetings or committee members' rationale for decisions.
- Some didn't understand information staff provided applicants to explain their funding recommendations.

## Scoring Criteria and Reviewer Feedback

- Several "neutral", some dissatisfied with process PCL used to recruit volunteer reviewers.
- Some "neutral", dissatisfied with scoring criteria used

# Conclusion & Implications

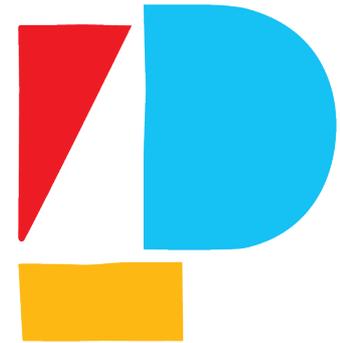
- High level of satisfaction with communication, continue those practices, including flexible testimony options
- Continue involving community reviewers (community engagement value), reviewer positive experience; consider involving them more/better prepare them
- Improve communication with applicants about review process- reviewer recruitment, qualifications, training
- Increase transparency in decision-making: process used to facilitate meetings, staff or reviewers to make funding recommendations, AC members' rationale for decisions

# Lessons Learned/Issues for Future

- High satisfaction with staff's communication- continue those practices
- Improve communication with applicants about review process- who and how it works
- Consider involving reviewers more in designing application questions, scoring criteria
- Consider having reviewers, rather than staff, make funding recommendations



**portland  
children's  
levy**



**Annual Performance Report  
2019-20  
Including COVID-19 Response**

# Full Report and This Summary

## Full Report

- Grantee performance across all Levy grants, and by program area, as of March 15, 2020. Hunger Relief grants for full year.
- Themes of COVID-19 response & impacts

## This Summary

Levy-wide highlights from report

# Overall Levy Goals

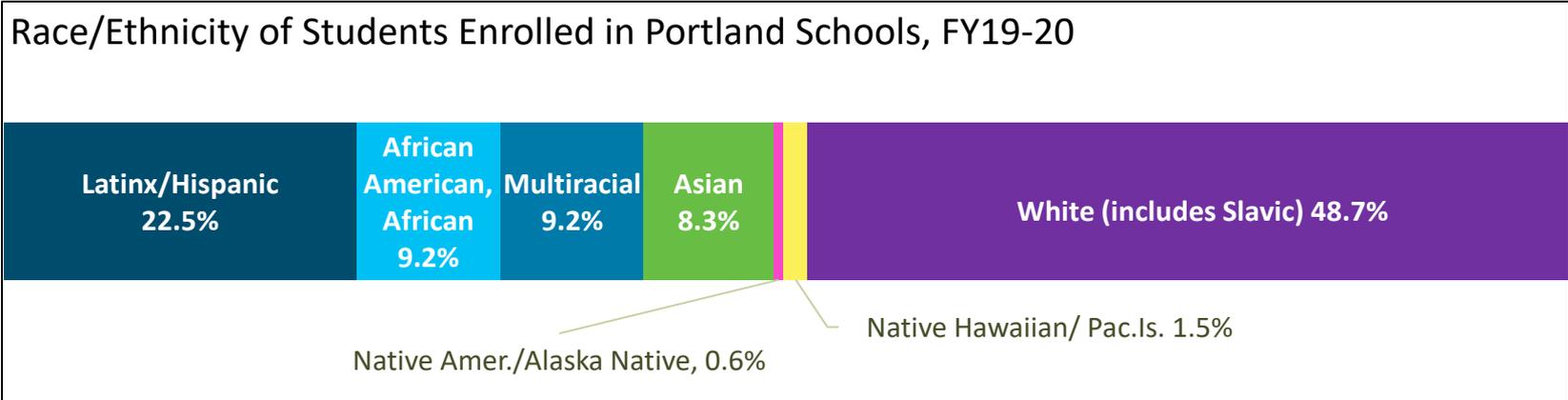
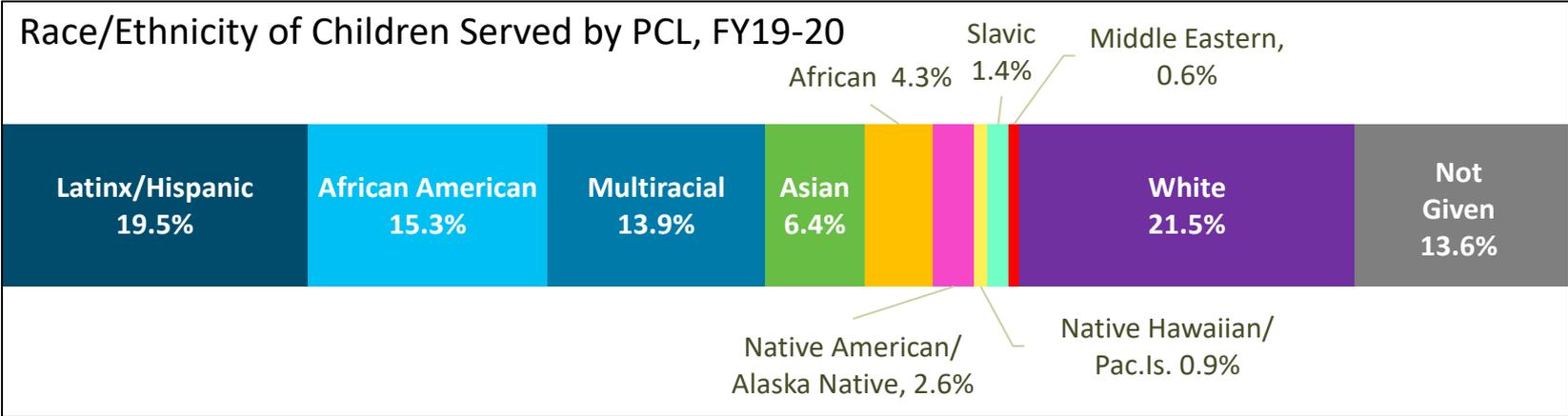
- Prepare children for school
- Support children's success inside and outside of school
- Eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in children's wellbeing and school success.

# Service Access, Children Served: 2019-20

- Exceed goals for numbers served by 3.1%
- 10,575 children served
- Pandemic impact on data collection- missing school data, disruption data procedures
- 94% families reporting income level had annual incomes 185% of Federal Poverty Level or less
- 27.5% from homes with primary language not English
- 64.9% children served identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- 40.3% resided or attended school in East Portland

# Service Access by Race/Ethnicity

PCL-funded programs serving more diverse population than enrolled in area public schools.



# Participation in Services

- 68.5% of participants met participation goals by 3/15/20
- Decrease compared past full year data, no pandemic

Data collection/reporting challenges due to pandemic:

- Organizations focused on equipping & supporting staff to work remotely
- Defining what counts as “participation”
- Responding to families’ emerging needs

# Outcome Goals

- Programs met 78.7% of their outcome goals.
- Outcomes vary by program model, intensity of services offered and used, population served.
- Among programs tracking similar outcomes, results reported only for participants that met participation goals and completed outcome measurement tools.
- Challenges obtaining and using school-related data

# Outcome Goals

Program Area	Results for some Common Outcomes
 <p>Early Childhood</p>	<p>83% of children met expected developmental milestones.  <i>11 of 14 programs, 353/425 children</i></p>
 <p>Child Abuse Prev. &amp; Interv.</p>	<p>91% of parents/caregivers met parenting outcomes.  <i>9 of 12 programs, 175/193 parents/caregivers</i></p>
 <p>Foster Care</p>	<p>96% of children and youth met academic outcomes.  <i>2 of 8 programs, 53/55 children and youth</i></p>
 <p>After School</p>	<p>91 % of children &amp; youth met youth development outcomes.  <i>7 of 22 programs, 941/1033 children</i></p>
 <p>Mentoring</p>	<p>96% of youth met school engagement outcomes.  <i>5 of 6 programs, 462/481</i></p>

# Staff Turnover

- 16.2% of grantee staff supported by PCL funds (750+ positions) turned over during the year.
- Range last several years is 15% - 20%; rates vary by program area; typically, PCL rates mirror sector trends
- Turnover declined in all program areas in FY19-20
- 4-year investment in training/consultation for 3 program areas- turnover declined over 3 years for early childhood, foster care; and 2 years for child abuse prevention & intervention

# COVID-19 Emergency Response

Grantees in early childhood, after school, mentoring, child abuse prevention & intervention, foster care:

- 90% of programs **pivoted to virtual services**
- 84% of programs said **clients remained enrolled**, and most didn't enroll new clients
- 86% of programs reported they/their agency provided **direct assistance, emergency relief to families**
- Consistent, ongoing individual services and **check-ins with families at least weekly**, focused on needs

# Emergency Response: Lessons Learned

Grantees in early childhood, after school, mentoring, child abuse prevention & intervention, foster care:

- agencies supported staff and staff teams supported each other to respond to families' needs.
- developed new policies & procedures for working remotely; equipped staff to work from home
- helped families access technology equipment and internet service; navigated distance learning platforms
- provided COVID-related health & safety information

# Emergency Response: in their words

*“...The first two months of the quarantine, [program staff] communicated with families on a daily basis via telephone and text messages to ensure they were getting accurate and up to date information regarding the pandemic and available resources... The transition to remote services did require adjustment... but we are very glad to see families were receptive... and we did not lose any clients due to the transition in services.” -- PCL Early Childhood Grantee*

*“We did not enroll any new families. From COVID 19, the racial unrest in America and with all program staff grieving the loss of loved ones in each team member's family, in the past six months. We have had several losses on our team already this year. Our continuing focus has been to keep the team unified and strong during this period while maintaining services to enrolled families.” -- PCL Foster Care Grantee*

# Hunger Relief: Service Access

## School Food Pantries

- 8,901 unduplicated children July-Mid-March (75% of annual goal)
- 166,059 duplicated children July-June (52% *more* than annual goal)

## Home Delivered Meal & Bulk Food

- 933 children (33% more than annual goal)

## Free/Discounted Produce Program

- 548 people (9% more than annual goal)

# Hunger Relief: Service Access

- 60% of children and 55% of parents/caregivers served identified as Black, Indigenous, or child of color (BIPOC)
- 45% of children served lived in homes where the primary language spoken was other than English
- 63% of children served lived or went to school East of 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

# Hunger Relief: Emergency Response

- School pantry system partners collaborated to consolidate and relocate school pantry sites, and move them outdoors
- Most pantries converted to contactless food box/bag pickup to limit face-to-face interaction
- Partners coordinated home delivery where needed; Village Gardens began offering home delivery
- Meals 4 Kids home delivery program increased service level to meet demand

# Community Childcare Initiative

**Served 304 children**, exceeded goal of 200

- 45% identify as children of color, 29% white, 26% not reported

## COVID Response

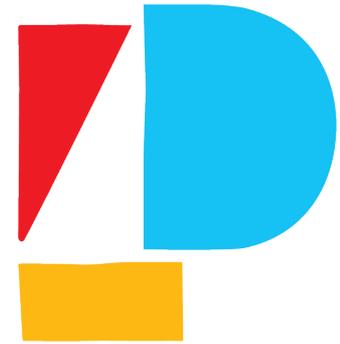
- State “emergency” license all childcare providers, or shut down; prioritize available care for essential workers
- State subsidy for families increased income eligibility (250%), no copay, paid providers even if child left care for Mar-June

**CCI followed state policies:** paid providers if child left care, also covered difference between provider rate/state subsidy rate

**Emergency Mini-grants to 52 CCI providers-** average \$3,800 per provider for lost small business income; used for food, health & safety supplies, program supplies, utilities, insurance, wages



# portland children's levy



## Mid-Year Program Implementation Report

# FY21 Mid-Year Progress: Service Goals

- All program areas except hunger relief: served 46% of people projected to serve annually
- Community Childcare Initiative (CCI): served 81% of annual goal
- Hunger relief pantry and meal delivery programs are all serving *more people* and providing *more food* than expected at mid-year
- Education-focused hunger relief programs pivoted to support emergency food relief and virtual education

# FY21 Mid-Year Progress: Challenges

## Program Enrollment

- Virtual outreach issues
- Enrollment process including parental consent
- Staffing and referrals

## Program Engagement

- Family technology issues
- Screen fatigue
- Families focused on basic needs

## Mental Health Issues

- Isolation, stress, anxiety, grief, exhaustion, lack of motivation

# FY21 Mid-Year Progress: Needs & Plans

## Support needed from PCL

- Continued flexibility
- Assistance with mental health resources
- Convene grantees
- Training

## Plans for return to in-person services

- Most planning to continue offering virtual services
- Many conducting limited in-person activities and plan to continue
- A few planning to return to in-person services
- Hunger relief programs planning to continue current service delivery methods