

The PCL uses a competitive grantmaking process to allocate funds to grantees. The last large competitive grant round was in FY 2013-14. Grant allocation is guided by community engagement to identify community needs and solutions (including a brief survey, stakeholder and community meetings, and open public meetings), setting program area goals and strategies based on identified community needs and desired solutions, setting goals for Levy-wide investments, and

reviewing local data on demographics and outcomes for children in Portland.⁴ Resources are then divided by program area based on a number of factors including local data, policy goals (e.g. investing early in a child’s life has shown the greatest return on public investments), and community input on priorities across program areas. The RFIs specify the program area and investment goals for each strategy selected by the Allocation Committee. Applicants are required to describe how the program employs at least one identified best practice strategy in their programming and is directed at achieving the program area goal.

After the 2014 funding round, investments were analyzed based on investment goals by strategy. In addition, prior to the FY 2019-20 grantmaking process, researchers at Portland State University conducted a comprehensive review of the PCL’s grantmaking process in preparation for the FY 2020-21 grantmaking process and developed recommendations for improvement.⁵ The report highlighted the learning curve for new grantees as well as the ability for the robust

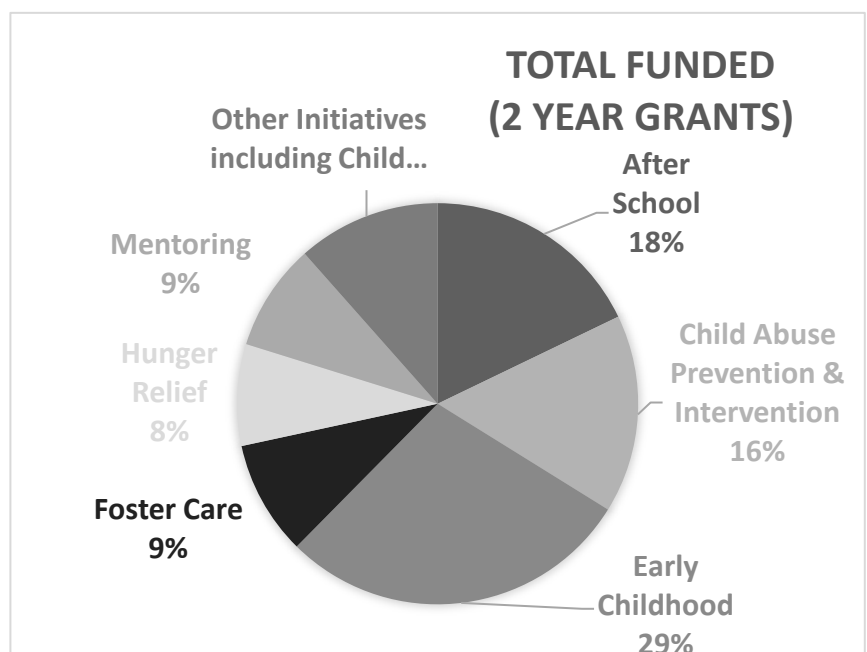


Figure 2 Early Childhood programs received the most funding during the most recent allocation period, receiving 29% of the allocated funds or \$10.4 million.

⁴ PCL Community Input Report. October 24, 2013.

<http://www.portlandchildrenslevy.org/sites/default/files/PCL%20Community%20Input%20Report%202013.FINAL.10.28.13.pdf>

⁵ The Portland Children’s Levy: Review of the Grantmaking Process. PSU Center for the Improvement of Child and Family Services. http://www.portlandchildrenslevy.org/sites/default/files/PCL%20report%20Jan%2030_0.pdf

