



Community and Economic  
Development



# Portland Children's Levy

City Life Committee Meeting  
April 14, 2026

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# Allocation Committee decisions 2026

## Small grants

- \$2.55M over 3 years
- 7/1/26 – 6/30/29

## Current large grant amendments

- 8% increase on 3-year awards
- \$5.2M over 2 years
- 7/1/26 – 6/30/28



# Background on Portland Children's Levy

- Resolution 37610 referred the levy to voters; reauthorization for July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2029
- Act governs Levy operations, including
  - Allocation Committee for all funding decisions
  - 5% limit on administration, annual audits
  - Use of funds for six program areas
  - Community engagement to inform funding priorities
  - Competitive funding process
  - "...based on scores and other community conditions to foster a balanced and integrated citywide system of services."





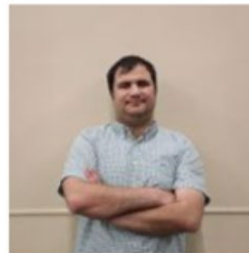
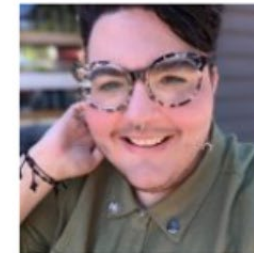
# Background: response to community engagement

## 1. Small grants

- Increase access for smaller nonprofits
- Strengthen their capacity to serve children and families
- First cohort: 7 small grants FY21-26

## 2. Community Council

- 11-13 community volunteers
- Advises PCL staff and Allocation Committee
- Lived, professional experience in PCL program areas





## Roles and responsibilities

1. Community Council **advises** staff and Allocation Committee. Makes funding recommendations.
2. Allocation Committee **decides** community engagement process, funding priorities, application, scoring criteria, review process, all funding allocations. Makes funding decisions.
3. City Council **reviews** and **approves or remands** entire set of grant funding decisions.

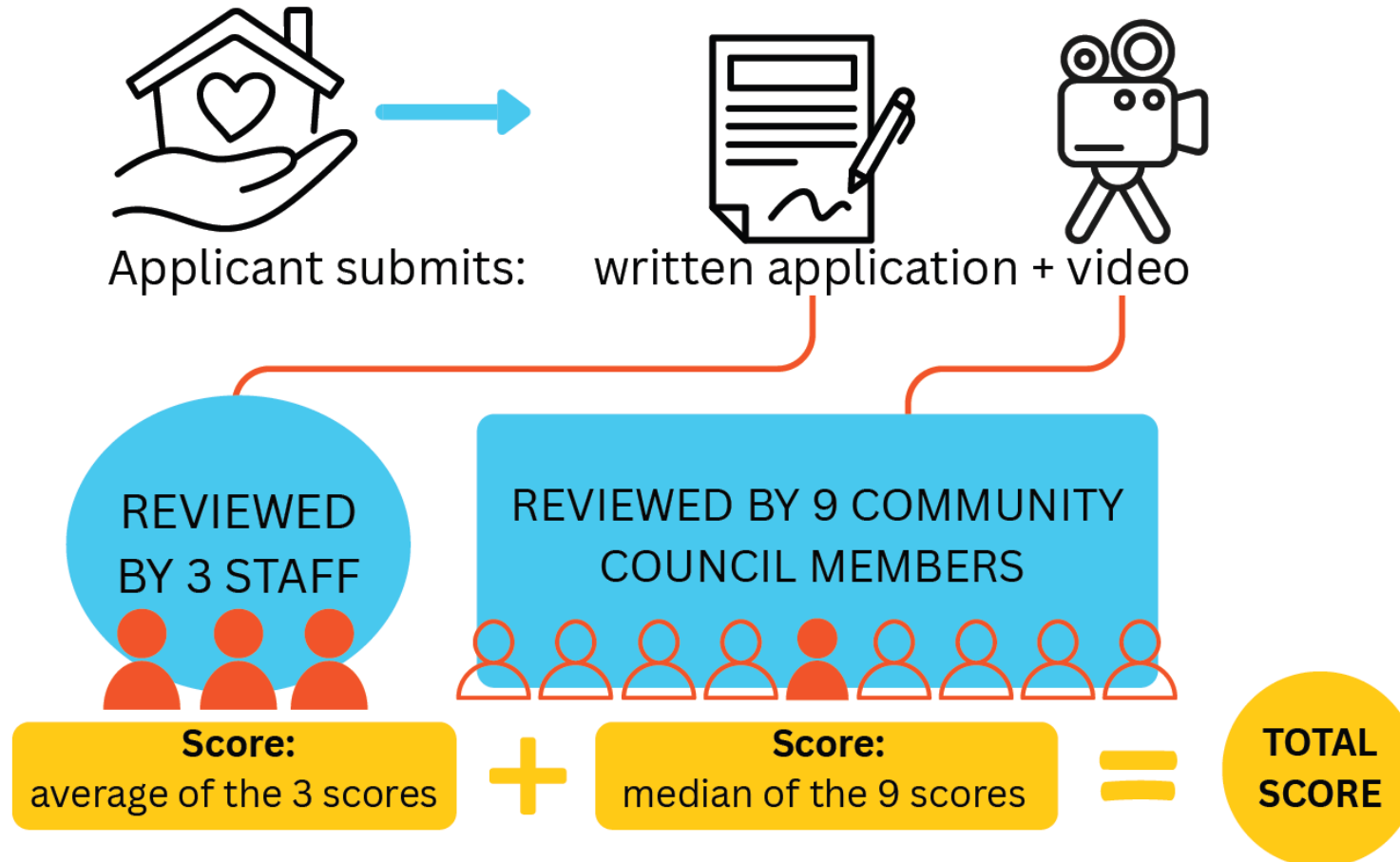


## **Small grants 2025-26**

- Organizations with annual revenues \$90k – \$750k
- 3-year grants for July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2029
- Grant size \$81k - \$240k
- Funding priorities in PCL's 6 program areas
  - 2024-25 community engagement led by Camille E. Trummer in collaboration with PKS International
  - 700+ community members, 26 languages



# Small grants application & scoring process





# December 2025-January 2026: updated PCL revenue projections

City economist updates PCL  
revenue projections in December

- Dec. 2025 projections increased compared to Dec. 2024 forecast for more conservative than actual growth on assessed values in local option levies
- Compression impacts not as steep as projected in 2024

\$6.5 million additional for FY 2025-26  
through FY 2027-28 (~\$2 million/year)

- \$2.8 million future tax revenue projections
- \$1.7 million compression offset from new Parks levy FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28
- \$2 million: FY 2024-25 actual tax revenue; revised future interest; underspent grants terminated FY 2024-25; savings dissolution Vibrant Communities service area



## January 2026 allocations

### Increase total to small grants to \$2.5M

- Was \$1M for 6-10 grants
- Added \$1.5M for up to 12 grants

### Increase current large grants by 8%

- 8% on current 3-year awards, totaling \$65M
- Added \$5.2M for use in FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28



# January 2026 allocations rationale

## Increase total to small grants to \$2.5M

- Meet more demand
- Fund 12 grants at full request
- Strike balance between more grants with higher needs for support and staff capacity

## Increase current large grants by 8%

- Efficiently move \$ into community by July 1, 2026
- COLA for grants
- Stabilize services for children/families as orgs face other cuts
- Mitigate lower funding when granted in spring



# **Community Council small grants recommendations**

## **Score results on applications**

- Total available points = 76; median = 54
- Several applications had same total score

## **Community Council selected 12 of 55 applications**

- Staff provided 3 policy frameworks for consideration
- Council members voted among 55 apps
- Applications with majority of 9 votes selected
- Reported score as factor most “highly influential”
- Recommendations went to Allocation Committee



# Allocation Committee small grants decisions

## March 3:

Applicants and Allocation  
Committee members receive:

- Guide summarizing recommendations
- Individual recommendations
- List of all applicants with recommendation results

## March 3-17:

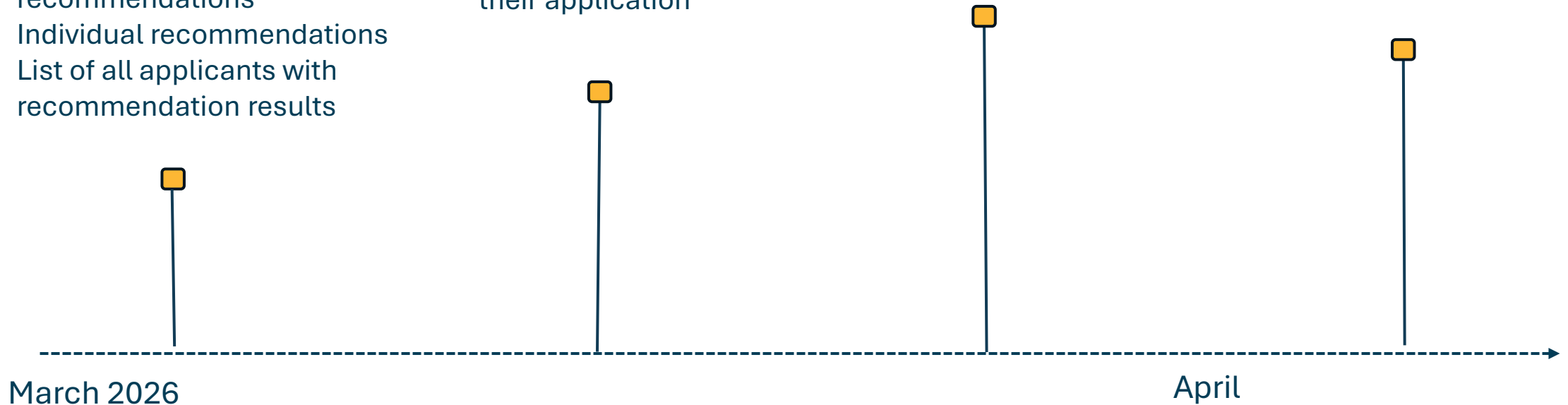
Applicants submit  
optional written  
testimony in support of  
their application

## March 19:

Testimony sent to  
Allocation Committee

## April 7:

Allocation Committee  
meets to make small  
grants decisions





## **Small grants July 1, 2026-June 30, 2029 (\$2.55 million)**

### **Small Grant Applicant Name and Program Area Abbreviation**

Active Children Portland, AS	Project LEDO, AS
African Refugee Immigrant Org., M	Somali Empowerment Circle, EC
Center for Black Excellence, AS	The Family Room, FC
En Taiko, AS	We Belong PDX, AS
Kindness Farm, HR	Wonderfolk, M
People of Color Outdoors, M	Word is Bond, M



# Community and Economic Development