



Portland Schools Foundation

April 2, 2008

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Seven projects awarded Schools, Families, Housing grants

Portland Schools Foundation and Portland City Council award grants to strengthen connections between schools and community

PORTLAND, Oregon, (April 2, 2008) -- The Portland Schools Foundation and the City of Portland today awarded grants to seven organizations to help lower-income youth and families connect to neighborhoods and be more successful in school. The Schools, Families, Housing Community Grants are part of the City's larger strategy to help families stay in Portland, and help the city's students and schools thrive.

At his final City Council meeting, Commissioner Erik Sten presented the first round of grants that he pioneered as an advocate for lower-income families. The seven organizations receiving grants today were chosen because they include housing as an integrated strategy, build on existing and proven efforts, and leverage summer programming for youth.

"I hear every day from families who want to continue to live in Portland and develop strong community connections," Sten said. "The programs receiving grants today can help make that happen."

The Portland Schools Foundation evaluated 37 grant proposals and recommended the seven winning projects to the City Council. "Families become invested in their communities when their children are successful in school," said Doug Nichols, chairman of the Foundation board. "These projects offer innovative approaches which we hope will become models for a wide range of communities."

The seven grant recipients include:

- Human Solutions' ***Somali Resource Program***, helping Somali families in the David Douglas School District connect to housing, school and English-as a Second Language staff.
- Parkrose School District's ***Project Rebound***, which will launch a program this summer to provide homeless or English-learning high school students with paid jobs mentoring elementary students.
- Housing Authority of Portland's ***Academic Achievement & Community Engagement Initiative***, which will hire a school stability specialist and provide a summer program in the HOPE VI project in North Portland's Humboldt neighborhood.

- Community Alliance of Tenants' **Tenant Stability Project**, which will work with eight high-priority schools in Portland, David Douglas and Parkrose school districts to support families in rental housing and help build community leadership.
- The Native American Youth Association's **Community and Family Stability Project**, creating culturally-specific housing and education enrichment services for American Indian and Alaskan Native students and families attending local schools and the NAYA Early College Academy.
- Hacienda CDC's **Vamos! Enrichment Program**, a culturally specific after-school enrichment, academic support, and parent involvement program designed to help Latino and other ethnic minority children and families in Northeast Portland's Cully neighborhood.
- Oregon Tradeswomen's **YWA Building Girls Project**, offering both a five-day summer camp and an after-school program designed to expose middle school girls to family-wage professions in the trades.

Today's awards are the first of two rounds of grants totaling \$850,000. The Request for Proposals for the second round of Community Grants was also announced at the Council hearing. Applications are due May 15. To download the Request for Proposals, visit www.thinkschools.org.

About The Portland Schools Foundation

The Portland Schools Foundation is an independent, community-based organization that mobilizes ideas, leadership, political support, and money necessary to ensure a first-rate education for every child, in every public school, in every Portland neighborhood. Over the past 10 years, the Schools Foundation has invested more than \$4.5 million in programs to strengthen achievement in Portland's schools. For more information visit www.thinkschools.org.