

Spokane Children's Investment Fund

How does the Fund Work

The Spokane Children's Investment Fund would create a fund managed by the City of Spokane in the amount of \$5 million annually. The oversight of this fund would be the 11 member volunteer "Citizens Oversight Committee". The funds would be distributed to expand capacity of organizations in the community that currently provide early childhood learning and interventions, abuse and neglect services, mentoring and after-school programs. The funds will be distributed using a Request for Investment (RFI) process that ensures programs are able to show outcomes. All of the below measures are included in the Ordinance language.

Citizens Oversight Committee

- 11 volunteer members
- Applications will be turned in, appointment made by the Mayor and approved by City Council
- Board must be properly balanced between 5 high school zones
- The following will have a minimum of at least one representative (Spokane Schools, City Council, Juvenile Justice System, Business Community, Provider of Child and Youth Services)
- Two members must be from minority communities affected by high dropout rates
- One member must be a youth
- Members serve a two year term and may be appointed for an additional two year term
- No member shall vote authorizing funds where the member is an employee or serves on the board

Request for Investment (RFI) Process

- Community gatherings before RFI process to ensure community input is process
- The community input will include specific needs for neighborhoods, culturally sensitive practices, and include visiting multiple institutions in each neighborhood
- RFI's will continually be updated to include best practice research and community needs
- RFI's will ask for details on: Program Design, Program Effectiveness, Program Evaluation, Budgets, and Organizational Capacity.
- The RFI will ensure that programs can demonstrate effectiveness of the funded program using local and national research.
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Accountability Measures

- Six-year sunset/voter renewal
- Fund subject to annual audit
- Administration limited to 5% of fund (\$250,000 annually)

"Our investments will be felt throughout the City of Spokane: in preschools, home-based childcares, elementary, middle and high schools, community centers, non-profit organizations, soccer fields, music auditoriums and parks. ...Spokane children will benefit from the breadth and depth of the proven programs in which we invest. *These programs include evidence based, best practice and proven programs with measurable results.*" Ordinance 2010-1 Section 5

"Organizations will receive funding through a competitive process and *must have a track record of success.* They must be cost effective and achieve positive results for children." Ordinance 2010-1 Section 5

"Each grantee will be required to demonstrate measureable results of their programs which will ultimately meet the overriding goals of the Spokane Children's Investment Fund. Grantees will be required to track client and program data which *demonstrates results and progress at least annually.* Outcomes reports will also be used to aggregate grantee data and monitor the overall Fund progress." Ordinance 2010-1 Section 7