

North Portland Neighborhood Services Description FY 07-08

North Portland Neighborhood Services is an assets based community development program that includes eleven neighborhood associations and affiliated community development programs such as Oregon's only tool lending library, the interstate farmers market, North Portland Community Works, business association support, Latino outreach support, the North Portland Trust Fund, Art on the Peninsula, EPA superfund site assessment, North Portland Greenway, two community centers (including two long-time wireless nodes), and the newly funded (FY06-07) community building Neighborhood grants . Some of these programs are self-sustaining (e.g. the largely self sustaining Historic Kenton Firehouse Community Center) and others require less than stable outside funding (e.g., temporary grant funding for the Tool Library). Additionally we are engaged in working with Commissioner Adams office in a two year Council directed project to assess the impact and mitigation of noise on North Portland residents.

General fund staffing covers one full-time staff member and two .4 FTE community networking specialists assigned seasonally. Other temporary staff is hired for project work (e.g., the tool librarians) and is funded through grant secured sources. Staff is largely engaged in serving as network connectors, technical assistance, program operation, fund raising, strategic advice, limited direct funding for communications, and, very importantly encouragement to residents who are not connected or are frustrated with the City and/or the community. Adjunct program staff is critical to our operation including City, County, and Metro staff assigned to work with us in North Portland (most importantly, the 1.0 FTE Crime Prevention coordinator).

The boundaries of the service area include the east bank of the Willamette River from its confluence with the Columbia River south to the Fremont Bridge, then north along I-5, to N. Ainsworth then east to NE Martin Luther King Blvd, then north along NE Martin Luther King Blvd. to the Columbia Slough, then east along the Columbia Slough to NE 33rd Avenue, then north to the Columbia River, and then west to the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers.

The work of these groups is work reviewing the policies, programs, procedures of local jurisdictions and their impact on North Portland, and engaging in local projects planting street trees, organizing block parties, neighborhood clean-ups, organizing and displaying community Art, etc.

Because many of these activities take place within the City of Portland rights-of-way, the City must be a certificate holder and requires specific insurance coverage. Metro (projects) and local utilities (hanging banners on utility poles) also on occasion may require that they are included as insurance holders. Third party liability and D & O insurance has been an enormous expense, but this was

somewhat mitigated by a drop in insurance rates and a budget increase in FY 06-07.

We are seeking an additional \$20,000 in general funds to continue the North Portland Tool Library in FY 07-08 as well as funding to move North Portland Online from the city driven OMF to the community driven North Portland Community Works.

We also look forward to opportunities to enhance our outreach to under-represented groups through the recommendations of the Community Connect project.