

Community and Neighborhood Involvement: Accountability limited, rules and funding model outdated

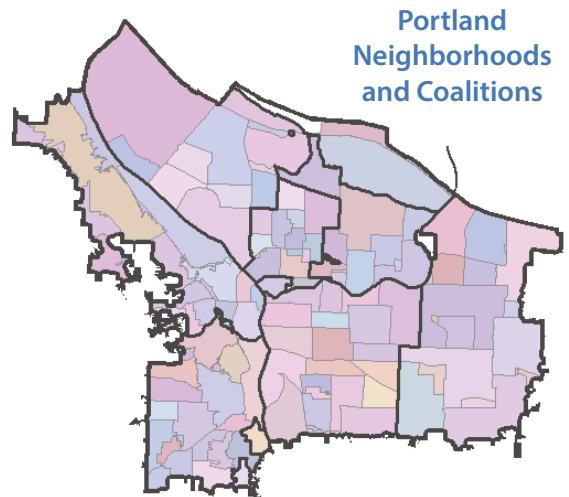


Audit highlights - November 2016

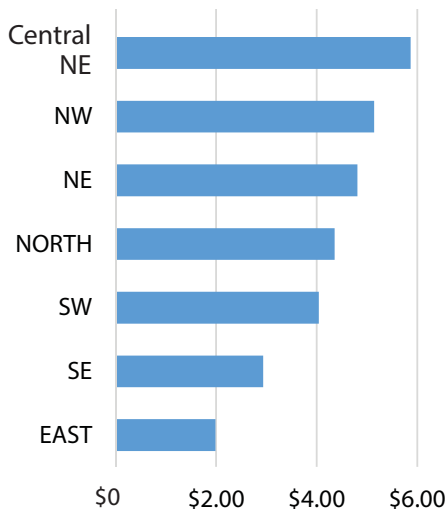
The City spends about **\$5 million** each year on a system of neighborhoods, community groups, and the **Office of Neighborhood Involvement's program**. City Council and the office have expanded programs beyond support for neighborhoods to fund organizations supporting underrepresented communities.

Accountability for use of public funds was limited:

- Grant recipients **aren't required to provide the annual plans** or benchmarks specified by contract.
- Grant recipients' **required performance measures are not defined and not useful.**
- The office **does not complete its own required annual plan.**
- Recommendations from 2008 to increase the number and diversity of people involved in the community have **not been fully implemented.**



City's code, standards, and funding model for community organizations is outdated:



Funding per resident varies greatly across neighborhoods

- City Code is **outdated, with some programs not included** or not accurately described.
- Neighborhood Involvement Standards are **well past the required 2009 update**. There is a **disconnect** between what is required of neighborhoods and what the City provides.
- The Office of Neighborhood Involvement **authority** in the City **needs to be more clearly defined.**

We **recommend** that the office:

Update code and standards, and develop an equitable funding model for community engagement.

Revise and follow contracts for community groups and simplify performance reporting.

Develop a realistic annual work plan for the office within existing funding levels.

