

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND AWARDS \$2,950,416 TO MORRISON CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

PORTLAND, OR – June 17, 2009 – The Children's Investment Fund awarded Morrison Child and Family Services Programs approximately \$2,950,416 over the next three years to support two highly-regarded programs focused on early childhood social and emotional development.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and the Incredible Years combines consultation for child care staff and preschool teachers, with parent education and support using the highly researched, evidence-based *Incredible Years* curriculum to serve over 840 children living in Portland each year.

Listos Para Aprender serves first generation immigrant families from Mexico and Central America with home-based education on parenting and child development coupled with group activities covering school-readiness and immigrant integration topics. Services utilize the nationally-acclaimed, evidence-based *Parents as Teachers* (PAT) curriculum, with the goal of equipping a family and their child to arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed. Over 200 children benefit from services every year.

Morrison Child and Family Services is the leading provider of children's mental health services in Multnomah County. A private, non-profit organization headquartered in Portland since 1947, Morrison employs proven, evidence-based practices to support children who suffer from childhood mental health disorders, substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, and other traumas, resulting in mental and emotional issues. For more information about Morrison Child and Family Services, call 503-258-4200 or visit www.morrisonkids.org.

The Children's Investment Fund was created by Portland voters in 2002 through passage of the Children's Levy. In November 2008, city voters renewed the Children's Levy to support CHIF for another five years. The Fund provides about \$13 million a year for five years to support programs designed to help children arrive at school ready to learn, provide safe and constructive after-school alternatives for kids, prevent child abuse, neglect and family violence and help foster kids succeed.

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