



Short-term demonstration project concept outline:

LEARNING PORTLAND: Volunteering for Youth Initiative

Description: *The Volunteering for Youth Initiative compensates City of Portland employees for volunteering, and encourages employees to consider volunteering for programs aimed at helping youth in the City of Portland. The Volunteering for Youth Initiative is a response to data gathered through visionPDX and Connected by 25, and also honors the requests of youth as enunciated in the Children & Youth Bill of Rights.*

Basis in Vision:

In the vision, Portlanders enunciated the values of **Community Connectedness** and **Accountability and Leadership**, which call for a government tied to the community and a community that is integrated and connected to itself. Supporting volunteerism of City of Portland employees not only connects those who work for the City to the community, but also may encourage others in the community to volunteer, thus increasing connections within the community. Encouraging City of Portland employees to focus volunteerism on youth, in particular, supports an outcome expressed in **Learning Portland** which states that “*children and young people are valued today and understood to be the future of our society.*” The vision states that “[Portlanders] hold an unwavering commitment that all young people are afforded high quality education providing diverse ways to learn and achieve.”

How does it work?

In the near future, a resolution will be presented to City Council that will encourage City of Portland employees to take advantage of HR Administrative Rule 4.05, allowing for City of Portland employees to take paid time off work (up to four hours per month) to volunteer in programs around the City. Through the resolution and this initiative, employees will be encouraged to use this new opportunity to volunteer with youth programs in the City of Portland. Initially, this program will be tracked in the payroll system, which will report the number of hours City of Portland employees are paid to volunteer. Volunteers will be required to complete a form to inform they’re supervisor (and a designated employee who will track this program citywide) of their volunteer activities. There will be an annual report to Council, in September of each year, regarding the status of the program. The possibility of adding a SAP portal where employees will be able to report specific information about what types of programs and activities they participate in is being explored. This potential self-reporting system could provide a tracking tool to assist with the annual progress report to Council.

Short-term demonstration project criteria:

Investment by City	Public/private partnership	Community involvement / impact
There may be a small fee to set up an electronic self-report tracking system which would be associated with the new SAP system – costs to be determined. Other than this potential cost, the program will be cost neutral. The City will not incur costs from overtime, mileage, etc.	The City of Portland will provide employees with contact information for numerous organizations that rely upon volunteers for providing services in Portland. By encouraging volunteerism, the City of Portland will provide critical volunteer support to community organizations and Portlanders. The private sector will be challenged to set up volunteering programs for their own employees.	Portland is already known for its community involvement, a fact that draws people and businesses to Portland. Portland is ranked 6 th highest in the nation for the number of citizens who volunteer. Numerous organizations within the City of Portland provide critical services to youth and rely upon volunteers to do so. In turn, these volunteers make a significant impact upon the quality of life in Portland.