

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Portland Foundation will be participating in Lilly Endowment Inc.'s \$210 million eighth phase of its Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) Initiative for Indiana Community Foundations. Begun 33 years ago, the GIFT Initiative was designed to help local Indiana communities develop the philanthropic capacity to address their own needs and challenges.

GIFT VIII is designed to help community foundations grow their financial resources to promote long-term viability and sustainability, further strengthen their leadership capabilities, and develop and implement strategic programs, projects, and initiatives that enhance their communities' quality of life.

Matching Fund Grants totaling up to \$135.3 million will enable community foundations to develop unrestricted assets, implement projects and programs that address community needs, and build their internal capacity. Eligible community foundations may submit proposals requesting grants ranging from \$750,000 to \$15 million based on the population of the counties they serve.

Community Leadership Grants totaling up to \$65.5 million will enable community foundations to continue to engage stakeholders in their communities and, if desired, seek funding to develop and implement large-scale action plans that address high priority community challenges and opportunities. Community Leadership Grants will be available in a two-phase process: a non-competitive planning phase and a competitive implementation phase.

For each phase of the Community Leadership Grants component, community foundations that want to work with community foundations in other counties may submit or collaborate on up to two proposals including one or both of the following: 1) a proposal for the county the community foundation serves; and/or 2) a joint/regional proposal for a multi-county region.

Phase 1 Planning Grants: Each eligible community foundation may submit a proposal requesting a Community Leadership Grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000 (based on the population of the counties it serves) to engage in planning activities aimed at envisioning and developing, in collaboration with community stakeholders, plans to enhance its communities' quality of life.

Phase 2 Implementation Grants: Each community foundation that participates in Phase 1 for a Community Leadership Planning Grant will be eligible to participate in Phase 2, which

comprises a two-stage process. In the first stage, a community foundation may submit a concept paper requesting funding ranging from \$5 million to \$20 million (based on the population of the counties it serves) for strategic initiatives and activities that address especially compelling needs in its communities.

Community foundations that submit the most compelling and promising concepts will be invited to participate in the second stage of Phase 2 of the Community Leadership Grants component, which will also be competitive, and submit full proposals for funding later in 2024.

Board Engagement Grants totaling up to \$9.2 million will encourage community foundation board participation and engagement by providing a \$100,000 unrestricted grant opportunity to eligible community foundations demonstrating 100 percent board member giving.

The Portland Foundation's Board of Trustees has determined that the Foundation will participate in GIFT VIII in the following manner:

- Apply for Matching Grant Funds of \$750,000 to develop unrestricted assets. The entire amount will be matched \$2 for \$1 on a first-come, first-served basis into new and existing unrestricted endowments.
- Apply for a Community Leadership Phase 1 Planning Grant of \$50,000 to continue community discussions around early childhood education in Jay County
- Apply for a Community Leadership Phase 1 Planning Grant of \$60,000 in collaboration with the Blackford County Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of Grant County to work with Project Leadership to develop education and career strategies for the counties' high school students
- Submit a Community Leadership Phase 2 Implementation Grant concept paper for \$5 million for a compelling project in Jay County
- Apply for a Board Engagement Grant of \$100,000

"We are honored and humbled by Lilly Endowment Inc.'s generosity to The Portland Foundation and all Indiana community foundations," said Doug Inman, Portland Foundation Executive Director. "GIFT VII showed us that early childhood education is important to the community. We will take the momentum gained from GIFT VII and use GIFT VIII to continue the discussion around this topic, which is vitally important to Jay County's future. We are excited to collaborate with the community foundations in Blackford and Grant Counties to assist high school students to be prepared for life after graduation."

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