



MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees

FROM: Julia López, Program Committee Member **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED**

DATE: June 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Approve FY26 Community Children’s Services funding increase for The Little Bit Foundation to serve 62 additional SLPS students and for River Roads Lutheran School to increase high school preparatory programming in their afterschool program

BACKGROUND

Annual Renewal Application Process

In the second, third, and on occasion the fourth year of a grant cycle, staff conduct an annual renewal application process for all funded partners, typically in March – April. During this process, agencies have the opportunity to indicate if they wish to receive any Board-approved COLA, request to carryforward funding remaining unspent at June 30 into the next fiscal year, make modifications to their program, or request changes to their approved budget line items. MHB program staff review renewal applications and then based upon the agencies’ annual site visit conducted in February and program performance through the third quarter of the fiscal year, make recommendations on whether individual agencies should be awarded the COLA or allowed to carryforward unspent funding into the next fiscal year. The annual renewal process is conducted by MHB staff with oversight from the Deputy Director. Each year at the May Board Meeting, Trustees approve continuation funding for year two, three, or four of a grant cycle.

FY26 RENEWAL APPLICATION PROCESS

Relinquished FY26 Funding

During the renewal application process this spring, two different agencies relinquished funding. It was determined that the Missouri Eating Disorders Association (FY25 funding \$75,100) would not be recommended to receive year 4 CCSF funding due to issues with staff turnover and underperformance which had plagued the agency since year 1. Lutheran Family and Children’s Services’ (LFCS) FY25 contracted budget for School-Based Prevention and Counseling was \$204,184. Due to challenges experienced in delivering the program in St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS), the agency requested to reduce their budget by \$109,378 to \$94,806 and to change the location of service delivery from SLPS schools to community-based locations like the Urban League and their headquarters. This change also meant that fewer students would receive counseling in schools.

The Little Bit Foundation

To ensure that SLPS students would continue to have access to mental health counseling services within schools resulting from LFCS reduced services, MHB staff approached The Little Bit Foundation (LBF) to explore if with additional funding, the agency could increase their school-based mental health services to serve more SLPS students in the 2025 – 2026 academic year. For FY25, LBF was awarded \$229,226 to support 204 students and their families with mental health and case management services.

LBF responded that they could expand their mental health and case management services by leveraging a referral model in partnership with the SLPS District Social Workers' Office and with \$109,378 in additional funding, could serve an additional 62 students and their families with comprehensive, trauma-informed mental health counseling and case management support. Based on LBF's current staffing model and cost structure, the additional funding would allow for the addition of:

- 1 Full-Time Case Manager *or* 2 Part-Time Practicum Students/Interns
- 1 Full-Time Therapist (vendor-based)

River Roads Lutheran School Afterschool Program

Due to significant staffing issues, River Roads Lutheran School was unable to complete and submit their FY26 Renewal Application by the requested deadline. Therefore, the additional \$10,000 the school had planned to request to enhance their currently funded afterschool program to better meet the social/emotional needs of their eighth grade students was not able to be included in the FY26 CCSF continuation funding recommendations presented to the Board at the May 15, 2025, meeting for consideration. In FY25, River Roads Lutheran School was awarded \$41,560.

Based on feedback from recent 8th grade graduates, River Roads' parents and students expressed a concern that while students were academically prepared upon graduating from the K-8 elementary school, they did not feel like students were as prepared to meet the social/emotional demands of high school. As a result, should the board approve the \$10,000 request for additional funding in FY26, River Roads will partner with two organizations to deliver a comprehensive life-skills class for 8th grade students in their afterschool program.

CITY OF ST. LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**AUTHORIZING FY26 RELINQUISHED COMMUNITY CHILDREN’S SERVICES FUNDING FOR
A PROJECT GRANT AND AN OUT OF SCHOOL TIME GRANT**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis, Missouri has levied taxes pursuant to the laws of the State of Missouri Sections 210.860 – 210.861 RSMo. (2005 and 2020) to fund the Community Children’s Services Fund (CCSF) and the Board is entrusted with administering these funds; and

WHEREAS, two Community Children’s Services Fund agencies, the Missouri Eating Disorders Association and Lutheran Family and Children’s Services relinquished funding appropriated for FY 2026 totaling \$184,478; and

WHEREAS, the requested reduction in funding (\$109,378) requested by Lutheran Family and Children’s Services School-Based Prevention and Counseling Program will result in fewer St. Louis Public School students receiving school-based mental health counseling; and

WHEREAS, The Little Bit Foundation, an MHB-funded provider of school-based mental health and case management services in St. Louis Public Schools, possesses both the capacity and willingness to serve 62 additional students and their families with the proposed addition of \$109,378 in funding; and

WHEREAS, River Roads Lutheran School has requested an additional \$10,000 to provide enhanced social/emotional programming for eighth grade students in their afterschool program that are less prepared to meet the social/emotional demands of high school; and

WHEREAS, up to \$184,478 in Community Children’s Services funding appropriated by Trustees for FY26 will not be utilized.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Trustees authorize and direct the Board Chair and Executive Director to enter into contracts with The Little Bit Foundation (\$338,604) and River Roads Lutheran School (\$51,560) for funding in FY26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) up to the amounts specified for each, not to exceed a maximum of \$390,164.

APPROVED THIS 18TH DAY OF JUNE 2025

Board Chair/Officer Name (printed):	Signature:
-------------------------------------	------------

ATTEST:

Board Officer Name (printed):	Signature:
-------------------------------	------------

