



MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees

FROM: Marcia Hayes-Harris, Program Committee Member **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED**

DATE: October 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Accept approximately \$500K in funding per year from the St. Louis Community Foundation on behalf of the Chiron Community Giving Foundation for the period 2025 – 2032

BACKGROUND

Chiron Community Giving Foundation (CCGF)

CCGF began as a component fund of the St. Louis Community Foundation in 2019, with the first grants being awarded in 2020. In 2021, CCGF became incorporated as a nonprofit private foundation in Missouri receiving 501(c)3 status. CCGF's mission is to promote effective collaboration that transforms communities and life for the people within them. The foundation envisions communities that are healthy, safe, and engaging for all people.

Since 2019, CCGF has invested over \$1.7M through grants and/or multi-year commitments to 38 organizations. In 2022, the foundation adopted a 10-year giving strategy using a two-pronged approach to achieve impact through research and grantmaking:

1. Increasing access to high-quality, affordable mental health care for individuals from birth – age 26 and their families, with a particular focus on children from birth – age 4, and transition age young adults ages 19 – 26
2. Reducing the clinical mental healthcare provider shortage

CCGF provides funding that increases access to programs and services for the most vulnerable residents of St. Louis City and St. Louis County and is particularly interested in supporting those organizations that demonstrate strong organizational commitment to principles of non-discrimination, anti-racism, equity, and effective inclusion.

In the summer of 2023, the foundation published *Mental Health Inequity: A Spatial Analysis of St. Louis* to provide a baseline understanding of mental health outcomes, accessibility, and associated social determinants of mental health in St. Louis City and County, analyzed at the zip code level. Over a six-month period in 2023, CCGF conducted a series of focus groups involving 108 community members including providers, those who support community members in seeking care, and those with lived experience seeking mental health care.

As a result of CCGF's spatial analysis, focus groups, and an environmental scan conducted by foundation president Kris Lewis, several next steps were identified including the announcement of a major funding award to support systems change work in St. Louis that is responsive to issues raised in the 2023/2024 qualitative research.

Lewis reached out to MHB based upon the number of times MHB's name was raised in her environmental scan as a competent and highly qualified potential grant making partner with whom the foundation's focus areas aligned. Executive Director Cassandra Kaufman and Deputy Director Serena Muhammad began discussions with Ms. Lewis to further explore both organization's strategic alignment and the potential for collaboration.

At the same time, Lewis was engaged in dialog with the United Way regarding becoming trained in Chiron's eight-module capacity-building curriculum developed by Dr. Candace Anthony, LPC. The intended goal of a partnership with United Way would be to have United Way deliver Chiron's capacity-building organizational training as an expansion of their existing United Way Academy.

Lastly, having determined the CCGF no longer wished to serve as a grant making entity but rather wanted to focus its work on research and advocacy, Lewis discussed making a \$8M funding award to the St. Louis Community Foundation through a donor advised fund. Up to \$3.5M of the major gift would include a grant to MHB in the amount of approximately \$500K per year over seven years to be allocated through the Behavioral Health Systems Change Initiative to increase access to high-quality mental healthcare in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. The United Way would also receive a multi-year grant of approximately \$50K annually to support the implementation of Chiron's capacity-building curriculum as part of its United Way Academy.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Program Committee met October 7, 2024, to discuss a number of items, one of which was whether MHB should accept the \$3.5M seven-year funding commitment from the St. Louis Community Foundation to increase access and affordability to high quality mental healthcare in St. Louis City and St. Louis County from the Chiron Community Giving Foundation's donor advised fund.

Having thoroughly vetted the Chiron Community Giving Foundation opportunity to leverage private foundation funding to supplement grant funding available through the Behavioral Health Systems Change Initiative (formerly Essential Services/Behavioral Health Safety Net), the committee recommends that the Board accept the \$3.5M seven-year funding commitment, contingent annually on demonstrated progress achieved.

CITY OF ST. LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES (MHB)

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDING AWARD

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis, Missouri has levied taxes pursuant to the laws of the State of Missouri Sections 205.975 – 205.990 RSMo. to fund the Community Mental Health Fund and Sections 210.860 – 210.861 RSMo. (2005 and 2020) to fund the Community Children’s Services Fund (CCSF); and

WHEREAS, this Board is desirous to implement its responsibilities to ensure high quality-behavioral health services for adults ages 18 and older and children and youth from birth to age 18 residing in the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, MHB’s reputation for engaging in collaboration, trust-based philanthropy, participatory grantmaking, and exemplary stewardship of public tax dollars have positioned it leverage funding from the Chiron Community Giving Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Community Foundation, through the Chiron Community Giving Foundation’s donor advised fund, has been directed to execute an agreement with MHB to distribute approximately \$500,000 per year in calendar years 2025 – 2032 to increase access to high-quality, affordable mental healthcare for those ages 0 – 26 and their families and reduce the clinical mental healthcare provider shortage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Board of Trustees authorizes the Executive Director and Board Chair to enter into an agreement with the St. Louis Community Foundation to distribute up to \$500,000 in calendar year 2025 to increase access to high-quality mental health care for those ages 0 – 26 and their families living in St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

APPROVED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER 2024:

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

Board Officer Name (printed):	Signature:
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