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MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees

FROM: Cassandra Kaufman, Executive Director **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED**

DATE: August 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Change Funding Source for FY25 International Institute of St. Louis' Project

BACKGROUND

At the February 20, 2025 Board Meeting, Trustees approved an increase to the International Institute of St. Louis' (IISTL) CCSF-funded *Support for Refugees and Immigrants* project serving children and youth. The emergency request for the funding was due to the federal funding freeze for refugee resettlement imposed by the Trump administration, which at that time left 420 newly arrived refugees without funding to support their resettlement. IISTL also furloughed 60% of its staff at that time.

IISTL requested \$34,000.00 to increase the existing 0.5 FTE Behavioral Health Case Manager position to 1.0 FTE. The staffing increase allowed the Institute to adequately serve the community and significantly enhanced the agency's ability to support individuals in need of behavioral health services which had increased during this funding crisis. In addition to requesting support for the Behavioral Health Case Manager, IISTL requested support for other operational expenses related to serving new arrivals that were not reimbursable under current orders from federal partners, many of which were related to meeting basic needs for new arrivals.

The board approved \$35,500.00 from the Community Mental Health – Emerging Needs Fund to support:

- \$34,000.00 for a 0.5 FTE Behavioral Health Case Manager position for 12 months beginning March 1, 2025 (This increased an existing 0.5 FTE position to 1.0 FTE)
- \$1,250.00 for employee mileage
- \$250.00 to purchase bus passes for refugees to access health and mental health appointments

MHB STAFF REQUEST

The awarding of CMHF – Emerging Needs funding to supplement an existing CCSF project changed the funding status of the project to a hybrid or intergenerational project. An unintended consequence was unnecessarily complicating the required reporting. At the close of FY25, there was over \$400K remaining unspent in the CCSF competitive funding budget due to underspending on the part of funded partners. Therefore, in an effort to reduce the administrative reporting burden for the Institute and to simplify things in preparation for the FY25 audit, staff are requesting that the founding source for the \$35,500.00 be changed from the CMHF – Emerging Needs Fund to the CCSF Competitive Fund.

CITY OF ST. LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APPROVE FY 2025 FUNDING CHANGE FROM THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH – EMERGING NEEDS FUND TO THE COMMUNITY CHILDREN’S SERVICES COMPETITIVE FUND

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 (CMHF) and 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, the Board is desirous to implement its responsibilities to ensure the provision of high-quality behavioral health, prevention, and early identification/intervention services for children, youth, and adults within the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, the International Institute of St. Louis has served as St. Louis’ primary refugee resettlement agency for more than a century; and

WHEREAS, significant changes to the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program including a federal funding freeze created a funding crisis in February 2025 for 420 newly arrived refugees being resettled by the International Institute of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, the new administration’s policies related to immigrants and refugees have increased the demand for behavioral health services among newly arrived refugees resettled in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, absent additional non-federal funding, the International Institute of St. Louis would have been unable to meet the behavioral health case management needs of existing newly arrived refugees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Board approves changing the FY25 funding source for the \$35,500.00 approved at the February 20, 2025 Board Meeting from the Community Mental Health – Emerging Needs Fund to the Community Children’s Services Competitive Fund for the International Institute of St. Louis to support 0.5 FTE of a Behavioral Health Case Manager position (\$34,000.00), employee mileage (\$1,250.00), and bus passes for refugee clients to access health and mental health appointments (\$250.00). The Board directs the Executive Director to enter into a contract amendment for the approved funding change.

APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF AUGUST 2025:

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

Board Officer Name (printed):	Signature:
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