

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees

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

DATE: February 19, 2025

SUBJECT: Allocate \$35,500 from Community Mental Health – Emerging Needs Fund to support behavioral health case management position due to federal refugee resettlement program funding freeze

BACKGROUND

The International Institute of St. Louis (IISTL) has served as St. Louis' primary refugee resettlement agency for more than 100 years. According to IISTL, the new administration has required the State Department to freeze federal funding for the refugee resettlement program which is leaving 420 newly arrived refugees without funding to support their resettlement. The agency recently furloughed 60% of its staff due to the federal funding freeze. As a currently funded partner, IISTL has contacted MHB to request funding support to address this acute need.

FUNDING REQUEST

IISTL is requesting \$34,000.00 to increase the existing 0.5 FTE Behavioral Health Case Manager position to 1.0 FTE. An additional Behavioral Health Case Manager will enable the Institute to ensure that it can adequately serve the community and significantly enhance IISTL's ability to support individuals in need of behavioral health services, which have increased during this 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 are not reimbursable under current orders from federal partners, many of which are related to meeting basic needs for new arrivals.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

MHB Staff recommend that the Trustees approve \$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 will increase 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

CITY OF SAINT LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APPROVE FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH – EMERGING NEEDS FUND TO SUPPORT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT FOR CITY RESIDENTS WHO ARE NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES

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

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 have created a funding crisis 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 will be unable to meet the behavioral health case management needs of existing newly arrived refugees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Board awards up to \$35,500.00 in FY 2025 Community Mental Health – Emerging Needs funding to 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 Board Chair and Executive Director to enter into a contract for the approved funding.

APPROVED THIS 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

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

Board Officer Name (printed):	Signature:
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