



partnering  
investing  
empowering

# MHB Program Committee

## Community Children's Service Fund Action Items

May 9, 2023

# Items for Discussion

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# Joyful Spaces: An ECE Quality & Sustainability Project

Early Childhood Facility Partnership

# Addressing an Unmet Community Need

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## Brief Timeline

- In establishing the EC Fund, MHB reserved 25% of the collected tax revenue (\$575,000) to address emerging needs
- EC Intermediaries identified facility improvement as an unmet need in their work with childcare providers
- During the EC ARPA grant program in partnership with the Community Development Administration, MHB and the City of St. Louis identified facility repairs as an unmet need
- January 2023 Board Retreat – MHB board approved a \$200,000 EC facility fund
- February 2023 – MHB Grant Administrator met with three EC Intermediaries to get a better understanding of their capacity to facilitate a facility improvement fund
- March 2023 – IFF and Gateway Early Childhood Alliance identified as partners with expertise in facility improvement

The overarching goal is to improve quality across the EC system, leading to increased access and better outcomes for children and families.

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**OBJECTIVE: 25 City of St. Louis Early Childcare providers will complete the training and have access to facility improvement grants/loans**

**KEY PARTNERS:**

Gateway Early Childhood Alliance – Current MHB CCSF-EC Intermediary Funded Partner

- Will dedicate one FTE plus a percentage of the Executive Director’s time to manage this project
- Will facilitate a pilot program for 5 – 6 EC providers using a “train the trainer” model to build their skill set and understanding of facilities improvement
- Will lead recruitment and selection of Advisory Committee members who will serve 2-year terms
- Advisory Committee will support the creation of grant guidelines to ensure equity and accountability are centered in all processes.

**IFF**

- IFF will administer all aspects of loan making and administration
- IFF will make a \$5 million commitment from its balance sheet to make **loans** to qualifying, eligible non-profit providers with a rate of 2.5% for a 5-year term, with 2% to be forgiven if P & I is paid on time over the term of the loan.

# Joyful Spaces Allocation

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Action:

**Amend approved \$200,000 facility fund to allocate \$215,867**

- The Gateway Early Childhood Alliance offers an **Administrative Capacity Building** initiative to the targeted provider group to increase operational effectiveness and sustainability across the EC community.
- The Alliance & IFF will partner to create and implement a tool for **Facilities Assessment and Planning** to be led by EC peers.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Action:

**Make up to \$359,133 from FY23 EC line item available for Facilities-Focused Grant Fund in FY24**

- The Alliance will create a **Facilities-Focused Grant Fund** to further support the needs identified by providers in their facilities self-assessments.
- IFF will manage a \$2 million fund of pooled philanthropic and government capital accessible by early childcare providers

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Family Court

CCSF Emerging Need

# Expanding Eligible Participants

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- In November 2022, St. Louis City Family Court shared with MHB staff the significant challenges they encountered in serving children under the care of the Missouri Children's Division (due to severe staff shortages in the CD).
- For more than a year Children's Division Case Managers have not adequately performed critical tasks to support families, an abbreviated list is provided below
  - Connect families to court ordered services, connect children to therapy, and make referrals for psych evals
  - Ensure visits between parents and children, help parents be successful when children are placed back in the home on a trial home visit, and expedite placement changes when a provider (foster parent, hospital, residential facility) requests immediate removal of a child.
- As a result, the Family Courts have experienced a decrease in demand for mental health services and supports from CD youth and families

# Family Subcontracted Services Allocation

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- Amend currently approved contract from a one-year contract of \$70,000 by adding two additional years of funding at \$150,000 annually
- Increase participants served from 87 to 300 by including families who are not currently receiving support from CD
- Increase therapy billing rate from \$70 per hour to \$85 due to increased cost of living and increased Medicaid reimbursement rate which was increased to \$119.74 as of July 1, 2022.

## Family Subcontracted Services Include:

1. Co-Parenting Counseling
2. Counseling/Therapy
3. Life Skills
4. Mentoring
5. Occupational Therapy
6. Parenting Classes
7. Psycho-Sexual Evaluation
8. Sex Offender Specific Treatment

# System of Care Family Support Partner Program

Braided Funding

# Leveraging Local and State Resources

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- MHB has convened the SAMHSA funded System of Care since 2014
- SOC is a regional initiative serving St. Louis City and St. Louis County
- The 2020 – 2023 SOC project established the St. Louis region's first Family Support Partner (FSP) program which pairs children and their families with FSPs who have lived experience navigating the juvenile justice and children's mental health systems
- The Community and Children's Resource Board of St. Charles County was the first to establish an FSP program in Missouri and has provided technical assistance to MHB and the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund on the steps required to partner with the Missouri legislature to access Medicaid matching funds

The goal is to help children and their parents/caregivers achieve family well-being.

**OBJECTIVE:**  
50 Families will work with a Family Support Partner to achieve participant defined behavioral health goals as measured by the Family Journey Assessment.

#### Family Well-Being

This cluster includes items related to the **caregiver's involvement** in interactions within and outside of the family that involve **making decisions affecting the family and child**, to his or her feelings of support and connections within and outside the family, and to the ability to maintain a daily routine.

#### Collaborates with Others

A key goal of family support is helping families form effective and active partnerships with other stakeholders. Items in this cluster tap whether **caregivers access help from formal and natural supports** as well as those who have similar experiences.

#### Coping Skills

FSPs aim to **help caregivers use their existing strengths and develop new skills** to cope with the burden related to their children's difficulties and other stressors. Items in this cluster assess whether the **caregiver has been able to develop and carry out a plan to address stressors and handle crises**. Items also examine the ability to understand and handle feelings of distress to further resilience and perseverance.

#### Self-Knowledge

A caregiver's capacity to recognize and communicate the strengths and needs of their child

# Family Support Partner Braided Fund

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Family Support Services are provided to families in a person-centered manner. FSPs provide one-on-one coaching opportunities that involves actively and reflectively listening to parents to help them identify SMART goals that will outline the support requested by the family. The following outlines this process:

- Orientation/Enrollment – first three-months includes a minimum of weekly visits.
- From 3-6 months of active enrollment, families will receive bi-weekly meetings.
- From 6-12 months of active enrollment, families will receive monthly meetings while they are working to establish self sufficiency towards a successful transition plan.

## **Braided Fund**

- In 2022, the FSP program served 124 families (85 St. Louis County, 39 St. Louis City)
- The annual cost of serving one family through FSS is \$3,600.
- Partnerships with BJC Behavioral Health and Hopewell cover 15% of program costs through Medicaid billing.
- The St. Louis County Children's Service Fund Program and Performance Committee will recommend to its Board of Directors an allocation of \$382,500 to serve 125 families in the upcoming fiscal year.
- **The MHB request to serve 50 City families would be \$180,000.**

# CCSF Renewal Requests

Update

# Update on CCSF FY23 – 25 Cycle

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Establishing cohorts to provide more support to smaller agencies



Reinstating early site visits and quarterly reporting



Staff recommended funding and outcome measures presented at May 18 board meeting