



MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees

FROM: Serena Muhammad, Deputy Director **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED**

DATE: February 13, 2024

SUBJECT: Early Childhood Fund and Out-of-School Time Fund Recommendations

EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

At its October 21, 2021 Board meeting, Trustees approved a funding framework for the new Community Children’s Services – Early Childhood Funding (CCSF-EC). Three types of early childhood programs and services were anticipated to be supported through the FY23 – 25 CCSF—EC competitive cycle (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025) including:

- 1. Social Emotional Development, Knowledge, Tools, and Resources**
 - a. Home/Classroom Management Curriculum
 - b. Social/Emotional Development Assessment Training and Referral

- 2. Access to Community Resources, Referrals, and Support**
 - a. Family Support Partner(s) – Peer mentor(s) with lived experience (shared by multiple providers) help caregivers access resources, social supports, and navigate parenting strengthening family and child well-being

- 3. Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention**
 - a. Therapeutic/Prevention Services
 - b. Home Visiting Screening Support

At the same time Trustees approved the CCSF—Early Childhood Funding Framework, a 75/25 approach for allocating the funding was also approved: 75% or approximately \$1,750,000 (\$2,325,000 total revenue projected in October 2021) would annually be set aside for 3-year competitive grants and 25% or approximately \$575,000, would annually be set aside for a rolling application process to fund newly identified gaps/needs. It was anticipated that investing in a prevention/early intervention assessment approach would uncover needs that may exist but were currently unavailable (e.g., long waitlists) and/or are missing (i.e., services not available until age 6 and need to be established for ages 0-5).

Later at the May 19, 2022 Board meeting, Trustees approved an increase to the FY23-25 Community Children’s Service Fund Early Childhood (CCSF—EC) Allocation from \$2,000,000 to \$2,069,000 to account for revenues that exceeded initial estimates. Based on actual CCSF—EC revenue received from FY22 to date, revenue continues to exceed initial projections. Moreover, the

unanticipated and emerging needs in the early childhood sector have not required the level of investment initially estimated.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME FUND

During its June 15, 2023 Board meeting, Trustees authorized \$500,000 from the Community Children’s Services Fund to provide quality out-of-school time programming. This action was due in part to the investment management partnerships with ARCHS and United 4 Children not being approved for continuation funding in the FY23 – 25 CCSF Competitive Cycle. Another contributing factor was the desire to align strategic approaches with the City of St. Louis Mayor’s Office of Children, Youth, and Families’ afterschool program funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The attached resolution calls for changes to the allocation amounts for both funds to support improvements to MHB’s allocation strategy:

- **Early Childhood Fund** – Beginning with the FY25 budget, decrease the set aside from the early childhood fund from 25% of total revenue to \$100,000 per year. This will make the funding that had previously been set aside available for direct services and align with the transition to an annual application. A regular application cycle will reduce the reliance on out-of-cycle emergency funding requests.
- **Out-of-School Time Funding** – Allocate an additional \$250,000 for an Out-of-School Time enrichment application to open in FY25. This funding will come from underspending in the current FY24 CCSF cycle.

Future recommendations include increasing the allocation for the FY26 – 28 CCSF—EC Competitive Cycle to reflect actual revenue (estimated at \$2,672,850) and increasing the allocation for the FY26 – 28 Out-of-School Time Competitive Cycle to \$1,000,000, which is based on MHB’s pre-pandemic level of investment.

CITY OF SAINT LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**APPROVE EARLY CHILDHOOD AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME ALLOCATION CHANGES
FOR FY 2025 (JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025)**

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

WHEREAS, in November 2020, voters approved an additional \$0.06 levy to be added to the Community Children’s Service Fund mil tax and dedicated to increasing capacity for early childhood programs serving children birth through age 5; and,

WHEREAS, this Board is desirous to implement its responsibilities to ensure the provision of high-quality early childhood programs and behavioral health services for children from birth to age five (5) residing in the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, this Board has set-aside a portion equivalent to six percent (6%) of total Community Children’s Services Fund revenues to support young children birth to age 5 living in the City of St. Louis receiving care in an early childhood center or home-based provider OR who are being cared for at home (not currently in childcare). Many of whom live in neighborhoods in which families may struggle to afford early childhood care and/or not enough providers of subsidized care/care exist overall; and

WHEREAS, improvements to the early childhood fund will result in increased funding available to support direct services and supports focused on social and emotional learning; and

WHEREAS, improvements to the out-of-school time fund will result in increased funding available to support enrichment activities focused on mental health and well-being;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Trustees approve the reduction of the Early Childhood Emerging Needs set aside from 25% of total revenue to \$100,000 annually beginning in FY25 and the allocation of an additional \$250,000 from unspent FY24 CCSF funds, to support out-of-school time enrichment programs in FY25.

APPROVED THIS 15th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024:

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

Board Officer Name (printed):	Signature:
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