



MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees

FROM: Rob Poirier, Program Committee Member **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED**

DATE: April 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Allocate \$115,200 to purchase psychological evaluation services for City residents

BACKGROUND

Significant health disparities exist in St. Louis¹. Residents of St. Louis City experience “critical barriers to outpatient behavioral health,” including affordability and accessibility of services, leading to higher rates of emergency department utilization and increased morbidity^{2,3}. While early identification and quality treatment can attenuate these effects, there is a paucity of mental health professionals who are able to provide affordable psychological evaluations in a timely manner.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PHD PROGRAM

The Clinical Psychology PhD Program at Saint Louis University (SLU) has been continuously accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1964 and is accredited through 2031. The program admits an annual class of 7 trainees, with a total average of 28 trainees throughout the program. Students provide psychological services under the supervision of a licensed clinical psychologist in their second through fourth years.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Clinical Psychology PhD program proposes to partner with MHB to increase access to psychological evaluations for city residents who seek out services on their own, as well as through referrals from MHB-funded partners. The program will provide psychological evaluations for a variety of cognitive, educational, emotional, and behavioral difficulties for ages 4+. Advanced clinical psychology doctoral students are trained in psychological evaluations for children and adults in the following areas: Psychological Disorders (trauma/PTSD; personality disorders; Obsessive Compulsive Disorder; etc.), Diagnostic Clarification, Attention-Deficit /Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Learning Disorders, IQ and Giftedness, Neuropsychological Evaluation, and Memory and Aging Concerns.

FUNDING REQUEST

The Clinical Psychology PhD program proposes a flat rate of \$1,200 per evaluation conducted. They estimate approximately eight city residents could be served per month during the FY25 fiscal year for a total request of \$115,200. The program will be managed as an expense reimbursement contract so that clients under the age of 18 can be billed to the Community Children’s Services Fund and clients 18 and over can be billed to the Community Mental Health Fund. Funding for this program will be allocated from unspent FY24 CCSF and CMHF funding not to exceed the maximum available in either fund.

CITY OF SAINT LOUIS MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APPROPRIATE FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH FUND AND COMMUNITY CHILDREN’S SERVICES FUND TO PURCHASE PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS FOR CITY RESIDENTS

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, 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, access to affordable and timely psychological evaluations is limited; and


WHEREAS, the Clinical Psychology PhD Program at Saint Louis University has the capacity to increase access psychological evaluation services through an existing accredited program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:


The Board awards up to \$115,200 in unallocated FY24 funding to Saint Louis University to purchase psychological evaluations for city residents ages four and older.

1. Using an expense reimbursement approach, MHB will fund services from the Community Mental Health Fund at approximately 1/3 of the total award at an estimated cost of \$38,000. The exact amount may vary depending on services rendered.
2. MHB will fund services from the Community Children’s Services Fund at approximately 2/3 of the total award at an estimated cost of \$77,200. The exact amount may vary depending on services rendered.
3. The Board Chair and Executive Director are authorized and directed to enter into an expense reimbursement contract with Saint Louis University in an amount not to exceed \$115,200.

APPROVED THIS 18th DAY OF APRIL 2024

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

Board Officer Name (printed):	Signature: 
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