



AGENDA
Social Services Committee
Friday, February 18, 2022
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center Room 2402 7:00 PM

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/7(2), SSC members and City staff will be participating in this meeting remotely. It has been determined that in-person meeting of the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committees are not practical or prudent due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Accordingly, the Social Services Committee may be convened, and members may attend by means other than physical presence consistent with 5 ILCS 120/7. Residents will not be able to provide public comment in-person at the meeting. Those wishing to make public comments at the Social Services Committee may submit written comments in advance or sign up to provide public comment by phone or video during the meeting by completing the Social Services Committee online comment form available by [clicking here](#) or visiting the [Social Services Committee webpage](#): and clicking on Public Comment Form.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87326081649?pwd=cGJlei9FTzRjM0xqN2VUSFovR0FmUT09>

Passcode: 234820

Or join by phone: US: +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 873 2608 1649

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1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. SUPPORT SERVICES

Funding Recommendations for Applications Not Eligible Under Case Management or Safety Net Services

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Based on the Social Service Committee's decision to direct Support Service funds to mental health, staff requests that the working group recommend declining applications that do not provide counseling or psychiatric services or that are not able to show an increased capacity to serve Evanston residents referred by case management partners. These applicants include Northwest CASA, Shore Community Services, and Youth Job Center.

Additionally, staff recommends the working group consider specific mental health needs identified by agencies providing case management services, including psychiatric services and counseling, and explore ways to allocate City funds on a fee-for-services basis to expand capacity for Evanston residents in case management to access these services. The working group could provide recommendations to the Committee at the March meeting.

For Discussion

[Funding Recommendations for Applications Not Eligible Under Case Management or Safety Net Services - Attachment - Pdf](#)

4. ADJOURNMENT



Memorandum

To: Members of the Social Services Committee
From: Jessica Wingader, Social Services Grants & Compliance Specialist
CC: Sarah Flax, Housing & Grants Manager
Subject: Funding Recommendations for Applications Not Eligible Under Case Management or Safety Net Services
Date: February 18, 2022

Recommended Action:

Based on the Social Service Committee's decision to direct Support Service funds to mental health, staff requests that the working group recommend declining applications that do not provide counseling or psychiatric services or that are not able to show an increased capacity to serve Evanston residents referred by case management partners. These applicants include Northwest CASA, Shore Community Services, and Youth Job Center.

Additionally, staff recommends the working group consider specific mental health needs identified by agencies providing case management services, including psychiatric services and counseling, and explore ways to allocate City funds on a fee-for-services basis to expand capacity for Evanston residents in case management to access these services. The working group could provide recommendations to the Committee at the March meeting.

Committee Action:

For Discussion

Summary:

This memo summarizes applicants who submitted funding requests for FY 2021 that were not funded under the categories of Safety Net or Case Management services and outlines support service needs identified by agencies providing case management services. At the Social Services Committee held November 11, 2021, Committee members agreed to focus funds designated for Support Services on mental health. These funds, totaling \$201,412, could be used to increase capacity for Evanston residents to receive individual and/or group counseling, diagnostic and/or psychiatric services, and medication management; all services identified by case management agencies as needed support services that are challenging for program participants to obtain. As part of the working group's examination of Support Services, staff also requests the group review Impact Behavioral Health Partners and Trilogy, Inc.

Applicants Not Funded as Case Management or Safety Net:

There are four agencies that have received City support in past years whose programs do not align with case management or safety net service requirements.

Impact Behavioral Health Partners

Impact did not submit an application for FY2021 funding because the agency anticipated applying as a support service and has been working with staff throughout the new allocation process. In prior years the agency received funds for a clinical services program and a supported employment program, both working with people 18+ who have a diagnosed chronic mental illness and are primarily residents of the agency's housing program. Recently, Impact has been providing mental health diagnostic services for people who have been referred by community partners including Connections for the Homeless, the Housing Authority of Cook County, the McGaw YMCA and the City of Evanston. Diagnosis is essential in order for people to access needed services including counseling, benefits enrollment, medication management and other supports. Any City funding would cover staff costs associated with working with people who are uninsured and help Impact recoup costs not covered by Medicaid.

Trilogy, Inc.

Trilogy requested funding to provide community based mental health intake services; prior year funding has been used to support half the salary of a full-time intake employee who devotes half of their time to working with Evanston residents. The intake staff member, historically supported with City funds, performs targeted outreach to engage vulnerable people who are unable to access services independently. Initial intake services may not be billable and staff time cannot be charged to insurance payers; City funds are used to offset costs and cover non-billable services and staff time. As stated above, diagnosis is the first step to access deeper counseling services that can be provided by Trilogy or through referrals to other agencies. Participants have been referred by Connections, Evanston Police Department, local hospitals and nursing homes. In addition, Evanston residents are able to contact the agency directly to receive intake services from the agency's intake team.

Northwest CASA

Northwest CASA provides comprehensive sexual violence services including advocacy at hospitals, police stations and courthouses throughout Cook County by trained volunteers, and counseling to victims of sexual assault. Prior year funding supported advocacy/counseling staff and occupancy costs. There is overlap in advocacy services provided by City's Victim Advocate staff and Northwest CASA. Counseling is specific to sexual assault victims and referrals come primarily from the agency's 24/7 crisis hotline and local hospitals. City funding would not directly increase services to Evanston residents or the Agency's capacity to assume new clients. Staff does not recommend funding because the number of Evanston residents served in prior years has shown no direct correlation to City funding provided. A fee for service agreement for Evanston residents provided by case management partners does not appear to be feasible based on the specific focus of counseling services provided.

Shore Community Services

Shore's Residential Services program provides home based support to children and adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities living in Evanston/Skokie with the goal of helping participants remain in the least restrictive living arrangements. This agency does not

provide direct mental health services which is the Committee's funding priority for support services.

Youth Job Center

The Youth Job Center offers job skills training and employment services that help participants 14-25 years of age explore career interests and find employment that ultimately offers a living wage and career advancement. This agency does not provide direct mental health services which is the Committee's funding priority for support services.

Support Services Funding Options:

To more clearly understand and define areas Support Services needs, staff held conversations with agencies that provide case management services including: Connections for the Homeless (11/19/21), Youth & Opportunity United (11/22/21), Infant Welfare Society (11/25/21), and the James B. Moran Center (11/26/21). Agency representatives reported that common areas of unmet need or lack of capacity include the following:

- Psychiatric Services, especially for children
- Diagnostic Services
- Counseling (individual and group)

Community partners providing these services include, but are not limited to, Erie Family Health Center, Turning Point, Trilogy, Inc., The Family Institute at Northwestern University, and Thresholds.

Further exploration is needed to understand how Support Services funding could be used to expand services for Evanston residents engaged in case management through existing partnerships with these agencies or others, including sole practitioners. Staff recommends the working group identify agencies/practitioners with the capacity to provide these services on a fee for service basis. The goal would be to establish fee for service agreements that address specific needs identified by agencies providing case management services and/or needs identified as priorities by the Committee.