ST. LOUIS OFFICE FOR Developmental Disability Resources

St. Louis Office for Developmental Disability Resources
Minutes of the Program Committee
March 26, 2026

Board Members Present:

Cynthia Mueller, Committee Chairperson
Selena Washington
Delilah Sullivan
Nina North-Murphy

Board Members Absent:

Sherry Wibbenmeyer

Staff Members Present:

Shaelene Plank, Executive Director
Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
Ebony Young, Agency Relations Representative
Kelly Head, Executive Assistant
Lisa Briggs, Director of Finance
Chris Winkelmann, Director of Finance

Call to Order

Committee Chair Cynthia Mueller called the meeting to order at **4:02 p.m.**

After a brief informal check-in and confirmation that a quorum was present, the meeting formally commenced.

FY27 New Funding Requests

Nate Head presented staff recommendations for **FY27 New Funding Requests**. Staff reported receiving **eight (8) proposals totaling approximately $1.6 million**. Based on projected FY27 availability, staff indicated that approximately **$181,000** was available for new projects and recommended funding **three (3) projects totaling $165,226**.

Nate Head reviewed each recommended project in detail:

- **Horizon Housing Development Corporation – Hyde Park Case Management (One-Year Extension):**

This request was presented as a one-year continuation of a project initially funded in FY26. The agency reported delays in anticipated HUD funding and requested temporary continuation support. The request was reduced from **$65,000 to $35,000**, with remaining costs supported by the Affordable Housing Commission.

- **Bridges Community Support Services – SHADE Program:**

Staff explained that the SHADE program had been previously funded through another provider and demonstrated positive outcomes. The program transitioned to Bridges Community Support Services and continues to show strong demand, particularly for individuals residing in the City of St. Louis.

- **Southside Early Childhood Center – Early Intervention Coordination:**

Staff described this project as supporting a full-time Early Intervention Coordinator embedded within early learning sites. Although similar to existing St. Louis ARC-supported early learning models, this position would provide consistent five-day-per-week coordination, addressing a service gap identified by Southside Early Childhood Center.

Committee members indicated that Mr. Head's explanations addressed prior questions regarding scope and need.

Nate Head reviewed each non-recommended project in detail:

- **Tabernacle / City Seniors.**

These requests were submitted under the capital priority with the goal of increasing access to the facility. However, it is unclear how many individuals with developmental disabilities would directly benefit from these projects. While some of the proposed improvements appear reasonable, it is difficult to justify the level of funding requested, particularly given our current funding constraints. For these reasons, staff did not recommend funding approval.

- **Gateway 180**

After review, staff felt the request went beyond the scope of the SB40 board's responsibilities, and given current funding constraints, is recommending no funding.

- **Horizon Housing / Gateway Housing First Collaboration**

Regarding the Horizon Housing Gateway Housing First Collaboration, staff is not recommending funding at this time. Staff would like to have further discussions with Horizon Housing before moving forward. Board members discussed the potential for Horizon Housing to serve as a subject-matter expert in embedding supportive practices within partner housing agencies to build their capacity over time and support the tenants that have a development disability there.

- **Horizon Housing / Peter & Paul / Gateway 180 Collaboration**

The committee engaged in an extensive discussion regarding the Campus Supportive Services Collaboration involving Horizon Housing Development Corporation, Peter & Paul Community Services, and Gateway 180 Homeless Services. Staff noted that this project was funded for one year in FY26 using restricted housing funds, with the understanding that the agencies would secure alternative funding moving forward.

Staff explained that renewal would require an additional **$614,320**, which would significantly deplete remaining restricted housing funds. Committee discussion focused on:

- Uncertainty of future HUD funding and timing;
- The distinction between funding housing infrastructure versus programmatic operations and rent;
- Long-term sustainability and precedent-setting use of restricted funds;
- The potential impact on future housing investments, including brick-and-mortar development.

While members acknowledged the demonstrated need and reported success of the collaboration, concern was expressed about exhausting restricted reserves without guaranteed continuation funding. Staff recommended declining the renewal at this time while remaining open to future discussion should circumstances change.

Motions:

- **Motion:** To approve staff-recommended FY27 new funding requests totaling **$165,226**.
    - **Moved by:** Nina North-Murphy
    - **Seconded by:** Selena Washington
    - **Vote:** All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion approved.

- **Motion:** To not recommend FY27 funding for the Horizon Housing / Peter & Paul / Gateway 180 collaborative request.
    - **Moved by:** Nina North-Murphy
    - **Seconded by:** Delilah Sullivan

- **Vote:** All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion approved.

- **Motion:** To approve staff recommendations not to fund the remaining FY27 new funding requests not previously approved.
  - **Moved by:** Nina North-Murphy
  - **Seconded by:** Delilah Sullivan
  - **Vote:** All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion approved.

FY27 Renewal Project Funding

Staff reviewed recommendations for **FY27 Renewal Project Funding**, noting that renewal totals were approximately **$7.5 million**. Nate Head explained that the renewal portfolio reflected projects previously reviewed earlier in the year and included adjustments such as moving the **$15,000 Emergency Assistance and Response Fund** from a program line item into contingency.

Committee members were advised that the portfolio maintained balanced investment across service categories. No changes were proposed beyond those previously discussed.

- **Motion:** To approve FY27 renewal project funding as recommended by staff.
  - **Moved by:** Nina North-Murphy
  - **Seconded by:** Delilah Sullivan
  - **Vote:** All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion approved.

Additional Updates

Staff shared an update that **RISE Adaptive Equipment and Assistive Technology Services** may discontinue service in the City due to staffing changes. Staff will temporarily hold funding allocated for these services while exploring alternative providers and will return to the committee with recommendations as needed.

The committee also discussed the need for clearer guidance regarding the use of restricted housing funds. Staff indicated this topic would be revisited following the April strategic planning session.

Adjournment

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.
  - **Moved by:** Nina North-Murphy
  - **Seconded by:** Delilah Sullivan
  - **Vote:** All voted in favor; none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at **4:41 p.m.**

Nina North Murphy
Nina North Murphy (May 18, 2026 11:37:52 CDT)

Nina North Murphy, Secretary

05/18/2026

Date Approved