SAINT LOUIS MHB MAKES ONE-TIME COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUNDING AWARDS
Grants will provide $500,000 in funding to 39 local organizations serving St. Louis City

Saint Louis MHB has awarded $500,000 to 39 organizations in the region from a special one-time grant fund to support the need for virtual service delivery, including telehealth and the increased staffing needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the City of St. Louis.

“It is evident that in addition to the City’s current behavioral health needs, the COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on the demand for mental health and substance use services in the City, so we reached out to the MHB to help address that issue” explained Dr. Fredrick Echols, Director City of St. Louis Department of Health. “MHB is a true partner with community-based organizations,” stated Pat Coleman, CEO of Behavioral Health Response. “They are providing additional funding so that organizations have the technology needed to shift to virtual service delivery and also to cover additional staffing costs as they respond to the increased need for behavioral health services for those most at risk from the pandemic.”

MHB surveyed their grantees, talked with City Health Department officials and other community leaders, as well as other funders to determine the best uses for its COVID-19 emergency funds. Additionally, the organization’s staff have been participating in local efforts to coordinate and align the community’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. “It was a priority to make additional funding available quickly so our behavioral health providers and those serving children and their families would have the resources needed to maintain services as they shift to working from home,” according to Jama Dodson Executive Director MHB.

About Saint Louis MHB: MHB is a special taxing district in the City of St. Louis authorized by Missouri state statutes and local ballot initiatives to administer public funds for behavioral health and children’s services for the benefit of City residents. MHB does not provide direct services itself but makes funding available for direct services operated by not-for-profit organizations.