



Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 02/17/2026

Agenda Item: CDS Funding – Immigration Liaison

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BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

In the spring of 2024, a Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request was submitted to Senator Baldwin’s office to fund an Immigration Liaison project. We have been in periodic contact with Senator Baldwin’s office obtaining updates on the request. On February 4, 2026, we were informed that a partial government funding bill for Fiscal Year 2026 was signed into law which includes \$85,000 of CDS funding for a Whitewater Immigration Liaison project.

Key considerations:

- The CDS funding is not a tax increase. This is strictly federal funding that does not increase the levy.
- This is independent of the public safety referendum and the CDS funding request was submitted prior to the referendum. This is also independent of the federal COPS Hiring grant that was received.
- The acceptance of the CDS funding does not change our enforcement posture. An Immigrant Liaison position is not immigration enforcement and does not alter the City’s existing policies and practices regarding federal authorities.
- An Immigration Liaison is an administrative response to a service demand to address gaps in service such as language barriers, crime reporting gaps, service coordination, education on local laws, and trust in our municipal services. The position is not intended to serve a political or ideological agenda.
- Council oversight of this project remains. Further planning regarding placement, supervision, duration of funding, etc. will be brought before Council.

PD staff are in communication with staff from Senator Baldwin’s office to obtain further details. At this point in time, we are requesting Council direction regarding acceptance of CDS funding.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

\$85,000 of CDS (federal) funding

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Move to accept CDS funding, and direct staff to develop an Immigration Liaison program that is most impactful for the community.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. FY2026 updated CDS Request
 2. CDS Emails
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