



Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 06/02/2026

Agenda Item: CDS Funding – Immigration Liaison

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BACKGROUND

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

UPDATE:

PD staff received additional information about the grant funding related to the Immigration Liaison program. While funding has been allocated to the city for this purpose, we are still required to submit a federal grant application. The application guidance document is provided in the packet for reference. Also included in the packet is our draft project narrative which outlines the approach of the Immigration Liaison program as well as the anticipated budget. Finally, a draft job description, which is required for the grant, is included in the packet for review.

Some key considerations after review of the application guidance document are:

- The CDS funding must address the goal outlined by congress, which is to reduce poverty. Therefore, the approach for the immigration liaison program outlined in the project narrative is designed to address poverty in various ways.
- The funding is strictly limited to a 12-month project period, so staff believe that a full-time position is the best use of the funding.
- The grant application is due June 16th so any changes that Council recommends must be clarified at the June 2nd meeting so they can be incorporated prior to submission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL:

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.
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- 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

Approve submission of the grant documents incorporating any feedback received by Council.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED
(If none, state N/A)

1. Application Guidance Document
2. Draft Immigration Liaison Project Narrative
3. Draft Immigration Liaison Job Description