

OVERVIEW

St. Louis has a rich history of regional growth and prosperity driven directly by immigrants, refugees, and families seeking asylum. Many find the support and services they need to thrive. These successes, however, can hide the lack of regional infrastructure and resources accessible to those who have been in the United States for a longer period of time, people who don't immediately qualify for federal programs, those whose needs cannot wait for eligibility verification, and people otherwise at the margins. Service providers and community groups developed by and for local international communities work tirelessly to fill the gaps for their neighbors already in St. Louis, and those who have just arrived.

Immigrant service providers have long highlighted the critical need for immigrant-friendly housing solutions, beginning with low-barrier, short-term shelter. A group of 17 organizations and collaboratives has come together, exploring four goals:

1. Meet their communities' need for short-term shelter this fall
2. Develop and refine culturally competent shelter resources
3. Integrate with existing housing support systems for a comprehensive continuum of care
4. Develop a sustainability plan for short-term shelter, including pathways to permanent housing

Partners will collaboratively pilot an emergency shelter for housing insecure members of their immigrant, migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking communities. Beyond immediate shelter this fall, the project will test and refine best practices for immigrant-friendly housing, clarifying the path to systems solutions. Long term infrastructure will likely involve immigrant-specific housing services, better integration of immigrant-friendly procedures within the larger continuum of care, and stronger coordination between the two.

Need	Problem	Intervention
Emergency Shelter Beds	Regional shelters are over capacity. In just one month this summer, over 300 people in St. Louis City and County sought a shelter bed when none was available. Historically, this shortfall turns deadly with cold weather.	Peter & Paul Community Services will operate a 40-bed emergency shelter on an empty floor of their N. Florissant Ave. building. Partners will refer clients and Welcome Neighbor will manage resident support services.
Culturally Competent Safety Net Housing	Even when a shelter bed is available, immigrant serving organizations report numerous barriers for their communities, from language access to prohibitive intake processes.	What does immigrant-friendly shelter really look like? This contained pilot will allow partners to systematically evaluate the need and iterate best practices, resulting in concrete tools and procedures for further implementation and/or funding.
Integration with Existing Housing Resources	The region has historically tackled homelessness and immigration as separate issues. On the whole, immigrant services are not well connected to the regional continuum of care.	Partners will explore and document 1) how providers can connect their clients to existing short and long term housing resources, and 2) where gaps persist.

RRT’S ROLE AS THE PROJECT MANAGER

This 10-12 week project requires facilitative leadership to effectively develop, test, and refine strategies and best practices for serving immigrants through short-term housing. Project highlights and anticipated deliverables follow.

Timeline: August 25- November 9, 2024	Facility Rental Cost: \$10,000 per month (temporarily prorated)	Renewable with Proof of Additional Funding	Anticipated Number Served: 30-60
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- It is anticipated that 20 staff hours per week will be needed to carry out this project. Activities will include:
- Weekly coalition meeting planning and facilitation, to include agenda development, minutes, facilitation of decision making, delegation of action items, etc.
 - Project management of project policies and procedures, and technical assistance developing them.
 - Data management and co-development of an evaluation plan on program reach and impact.
 - Implementation of the evaluation plan through partnership with caseworkers and other service providers.
 - A compilation of successes, challenges, and investments made to illustrate ‘what it takes’ to keep this going.

PARTNERS

Contracted Project Leads

- Peter & Paul Community Services (Facilities)
- Welcome Neighbor (Wrap Around Services)
- Incarnate Word Foundation (Seed Funder)

Project Manager

- Regional Response Team (RRT)

Confirmed Contributing Members

- Archdiocese of St. Louis*
- Casa de Salud*
- Catholic Charities of St. Louis*
- Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry
- Christian Friends of New Americans*
- Immigrant Home Learning English Program (IHELP)*
- LifeWise STL*
- Immigrant Service Providers Network
- MICA Project*
- Migrant Ministry STL*
- Monarch STL*
- Oasis 4 Refugees*
- St. Francis Community Services*
- St. Louis University

* Denotes Direct Service Provider

° Denotes Regional Response Team Involvement

PROJECT PLAN

