



News Release

For Immediate Release

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WCCMHB

Winnebago County
Community Mental
Health Board

\$2 Million Available for Grassroots Mental Health Initiatives

ROCKFORD, IL — The Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB) is seeking proposals for a new funding opportunity aimed to encourage innovative mental health and substance use programming. This Grassroots Funding intends to provide a total \$2 million for mental health and substance use programming over the next two years to small, community-based organizations.

For Grassroots Funding, the Board will accept proposals from small, community-based nonprofits seeking to enact meaningful and innovative services to the communities in Winnebago County they serve. Funding will be prioritized to organizations with a \$1 million operating budget or less. Awarded organizations cannot be current awardees of WCCMHB Core Funding, and must either be geographically aligned to the community they serve or utilize innovative local solutions to solve local mental health or substance use problems.

“The establishment of a Grassroots funding opportunity allows the Board to support small nonprofits while simultaneously addressing the mental health or substance use needs of Winnebago County.” Board President Mary Ann Abate says. “We recognize that smaller nonprofits are uniquely positioned to address certain local mental health and substance use issues.”

Application details can be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) at r1planning.org/wccmhbfunding-resources. Additional information will be posted to the website throughout the grant application period, such as Q&A Summaries and Grant Seekers Information Presentations, as they become available.

Questions can be emailed to info@mentalhealth.wincoil.us

Submission of an application does not guarantee approval or the award of funds. Grantee eligibility requirements must be met in full by all awarded grantee organizations.

ABOUT WCCMHB — The purpose of the [Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board](https://winnebago.org/wccmhbfunding-resources) (WCCMHB) is a board of appointed community leaders and public officials dedicated to investing and supporting mental health and substance use services for adults and children in Winnebago County. WCCMHB receives funding through a half-cent sales tax which was approved by Winnebago County residents in March 2020. This sales tax generates approximately \$18 million annually for mental health and substance use services across the county. WCCMHB

positively impacts the Winnebago County community by increasing access to local services by providing support and funding to organizations, non-profits, and government agencies that offer mental health and substance use services. This allows Winnebago County residents to live and recover in the community.

ABOUT RPC – [Region 1 Planning Council](#) is a special-purpose, regional government agency providing cross-jurisdictional, government-to-government collaborative planning for Northern Illinois. The regional planning model provides an efficient means to promoting a well-informed, comprehensive dialogue that holistically addresses regional issues by fulfilling the needs of government entities for long-range planning, securing funding, and analyzing and providing data in support of regional projects and initiatives. *The Region 1 Planning Council provides staff support to the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board.*

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