



Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB)

Core Program Funding for Program Years 7 – 9 (PY7-9)

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Description:

The Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB) seeks proposals for the purpose of contracting with public or private entities for mental health and substance use services, including training and education, for Winnebago County, IL residents of all ages. WCCMHB will prioritize the renewal of successful programs, new proposals, and new capital projects that address one of the following identified gaps:

Programmatic Service Gaps:

- Eating Disorder Treatment
- Perinatal Mental Health
- Harm Reduction
- Older Adults (50+) Mental Health and/or Substance Use Treatment
- Veterans' Mental Health and/or Substance Use Treatment
- Rural Mental Health and/or Substance Use Treatment
- Other**

Capital Project Priorities:

- Emergency Room or Urgent Care Expansions
- Supportive Housing Units
- Inpatient Bed Capacity Expansions
- Crisis Response Expansions
- Other**

***Should 'other' be chosen by the applicant, they must present a rationale as to why it is a service gap within the community and how the current WCCMHB-Funded Programs do not meet the need.*

PY7-9 Funding Availability for Core Programs:

A maximum of \$85 million is available to be disbursed among all awardees, over three years (June 1, 2027 – May 31, 2030). Details on request amount maximums and minimums are



riplanning.org/community-impact/wccmhbb | info@mentalhealth.wincoil.gov | bit.ly/m/WCCMHB





provided below. Programs may request up to three years of funding and may be awarded three-year contracts. A total three-year request may not exceed the sum of the past three years in operating expenses or operating revenue, whichever is greater, for the lead organization.

Programmatic Proposals:

\$75 million will be allocated for programmatic proposals, including the Program Years 4–6 (PY4–6) Renewal Programs and New Proposals.

PY4–6 Renewals:

All PY4–6 programs seeking to renew for the PY7–9 cycle may request a flat 10% increase over their PY4–PY6 awarded amount. *However, programs that have spent less than 85% of their PY4 & 5 combined budget should be prepared to explain the need for an increase in the request amount.*

New Proposals:

New programmatic/service proposals have a minimum request limit of \$300,000.00 (or \$100,000.00 per year), and a maximum request limit of \$3 million (or \$1 million per year).

Capital Proposals:

The remaining \$10 million will be reserved for one-time capital projects. The maximum request is \$2 million per proposal for one-time capital projects. Awarded capital projects must be completed within the PY7–PY9 period.

General Funding Information:

WCCMHB will award Core Funding based on target populations, identified gap fit, and overall incorporation into the CCBHC framework, as laid out in the PY7–9 Strategic Plan.

Services provided must be evidence-based, best practices, or promising practices.

Target Populations will include:

- Serious Mental Illness (18+)
- Serious Emotional Disturbance (3–21)
- Substance Use (All Ages)
- Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health
- Co-Occurring (All ages, split into 0–17 and 18+)

All services must be for Winnebago County, IL residents only.

Who May Apply:



riplanning.org/community-impact/wccmhmb | info@mentalhealth.wincoil.gov | bit.ly/m/WCCMHB





The following types of entities are eligible to apply:

- Not-for-Profit Corporations (must be registered as a not-for-profit in good standing with the State of Illinois and established as a Section 501(c)3 under the Internal Revenue Code.
- Hospitals and healthcare organizations, including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Governmental entities and departments within Winnebago County, IL.

All *lead* organizations must be established for at least three years prior to applying for funding.

Should a current Grassroots Funding organization choose to apply and be awarded PY7-9 Core Funding, their Grassroots Funding contract will end on May 31, 2027.

All applicants must submit a recent audit or provide rationale if no audit was completed.

Through the funding application and review process, all entities must demonstrate financial accountability, reliability, and stability, as well as an appropriate service of value to the persons to be served, as determined by the WCCMHB.

Proposal Submission Details:

Abstracts and applications will only be accepted through the Foundant Grant Lifecycle Management platform, which is available on the WCCMHB website. Grant abstracts and applications will be separated into three categories: Renewal, New – Programmatic, and New – Capital.

Renewal applications are designated for any proposal that was funded in the PY4-6 Core Funding process. Proposals that have been previously funded but were not funded in the previous PY4-6 cycle must apply under New – Programmatic.

All WCCMHB funding considerations will take the target populations into account. The target populations are determined from the WCCMHB Strategic Plan, which can be found [here](#). New programmatic proposals should fill a service gap, as outlined above within this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). All proposals must incorporate one or more of the following service types:

Direct Service Categories:

- **Crisis Response:** *A set of structures, processes, and services in place to meet urgent or emerging mental health or substance use crisis needs.*



riplanning.org/community-impact/wccmhbm | info.mentalhealth.wincoil.gov | bit.ly/m/WCCMHB





- **Clinical Treatment:** Care provided by mental health and/or substance use professionals to manage, prevent, or address negative outcomes or symptomatology.
- **Case Management:** The assessment, planning, and coordination of comprehensive care for an individual.
- **Supportive Housing:** Providing safe, secure housing in conjunction with other support services to help an individual live as independently as possible.
- **Client Identification and Outreach:** The process of finding individuals who are eligible for services and making contact with them.
- **Peer Support:** Individuals who have lived experience with mental health and/or substance use, and have a desire to support others with those conditions.
- **Family Support:** The family of an individual suffering from mental health and/or substance use issues supporting their road to recovery. Programming and/or services for the family of an individual suffering from mental health and/or substance use issues.
- **Other** (as approved by the Board).

Indirect Service Categories:

- **Workforce Development:** Supporting the development and/or retention of mental health and/or substance use professionals in Winnebago County, IL.
- **Service Coordination:** The coordination of mental health and/or substance use services across multiple providers.
- **Community Education:** The community of Winnebago County, IL receiving education on mental health and/or substance use.
- **Other** (as approved by the Board).

Proposal Timeline Details:

WCCMHB is using the Foundant Grant Lifecycle Management platform for submissions of funding proposals for Program Years 7-9. The submission portal will be available for all applicants as outlined on the WCCMHB website. All submissions are due at 5:00 PM CT on the day of the deadline. A full timeline outlining key dates and times for the PY7-9 Core Funding process will be posted on the WCCMHB website.

For questions related to the abstract or application process, or to sign up for email notifications, please email info@mentalhealth.wincoil.gov or check the WCCMHB Funding Resources page.

Evaluation of Proposals:



rplanning.org/community-impact/wccmhb | info@mentalhealth.wincoil.gov | bit.ly/m/WCCMHB





WCCMHB allocation and contracting decisions are made in open meetings, which can be attended in-person (at Region 1 Planning Council, 127 N Wyman Street, Rockford, IL 61101) or watched virtually through the live stream on the WCCMHB YouTube Page. Allocation decisions will be based on statutory mandates and community priorities, as laid out in the WCCMHB Program Years 7-9 Strategic Plan.

In accordance with the Community Mental Health Act, WCCMHB Members strive to ensure that the standards of services delivered are of the highest degree possible, that they are free from any negative influences caused by conflict-of-interest situations, and that they contribute to equitable mental health system practices and outcomes in Winnebago County, IL. Board Members have a duty to avoid self-serving or conflict-of-interest situations where, by virtue of their position or decision-making authority, transactions are allowed to occur that do not serve the best interest of the WCCMHB, or which give the appearance of, or have the potential for, obtaining benefit, monetary or otherwise, for the individual, family, friends, or business associates.

Emphasis will be placed upon a proposal's strength in addressing each of the following criteria within the electronic submission.

Artificial Intelligence Policy:

The WCCMHB reserves the right to deny abstracts and applications based on authenticity, tone, and voice. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is heavily discouraged by the WCCMHB. This does not mean AI cannot be used, but WCCMHB values originality, concision, and authenticity in proposals, and these will be included in evaluation criteria. Additionally, applicants will be required to disclose AI usage.

Proposal Process & Criteria:

New Programmatic Proposal Process & Criteria:

Abstract Process:

Emphasis will be placed upon the proposal's strength in addressing each of the following criteria:

1. Does this proposal address an identified gap?
2. Is this proposal realistic to achieve?
3. Are the proposed goals & anticipated outcomes aligned with the WCCMHB Strategic Plan?
4. Is the proposal evidence-based, best practice, or promising practice?
5. Does the proposed budget demonstrate cost-effectiveness of service?
6. Does the proposal narrative convey authenticity, originality, and concision?





Application Process, if Abstract is Selected:

Emphasis will be placed upon the proposal's strength in addressing each of the following criteria:

1. Agency Description (*risk management, adequate staffing, accreditation, consumer satisfaction*)
2. Proposal Description (*mission, service description, populations served, extent of services, evidence based/best practice/promising practice*)
3. Proposal Budget (*budget items, indirect costs, positions to be funded, total amount requested*)
4. Strategic Plan 3.0 Alignment (*fills an identified need/gap, CCBHC integration, collaborations, target populations*)
5. Narrative Construction (*grammar, tone, concision, authenticity, originality*)

New Capital Proposal Process & Criteria:

Abstract Process:

Emphasis will be placed upon the proposal's strength in addressing each of the following criteria:

1. Is this capital project realistic?
2. Is this project a one-time, non-programmatic project?
3. Does this project address an identified capital gap?
4. Are the proposed goals and anticipated outcomes of this project aligned with the WCCMHB Strategic Plan?
5. Is the proposed budget realistic and does it demonstrate cost effectiveness?
6. Does the proposal narrative convey authenticity, originality, and concision?

Application Process, if Abstract is Selected:

Emphasis will be placed upon the proposal's strength in addressing each of the following criteria:

1. Agency Description (*capacity, adequate staffing, extent of services, CCBHC integration*)
2. Transformative Impact (*systems change, access to services/availability, individuals to be served*)





3. Timeline of the project (*proposal to be completed by the end of Program Year 9, May 31st, 2030*)
4. Finances (*budget, financial sustainability & stability*)
5. Narrative Construction (*grammar, tone, concision, authenticity, originality*)

Renewal Proposal Application Process & Criteria:

Renewal proposals will not be required to submit an abstract. Emphasis will be placed upon the proposal's strength in addressing each of the following criteria during the previous funding cycles:

1. Program Execution:
 - a. How well was the proposed program executed?
2. Finances:
 - a. How well were funding dollars utilized?
3. Program Management:
 - a. How compliant was this agency and program in fulfilling their contractual obligations?
 - b. How well did the agency work with the WCCMHB?
4. Systems-Orientation:
 - a. How systems-oriented was the program?
 - b. Does the program have a realistic and well-thought-out plan for partnering with the local CCBHC (as applicable)?
5. Narrative Construction:
 - a. How well does this narrative convey the program's vision? Please consider grammar, tone, concision, and authenticity.

The WCCMHB Program Year 7-9 Rubrics will be used as a guide in reaching funding allocation decisions. WCCMHB reserves the right to not select a provider or to submit a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for redefined services. WCCMHB also reserves the right to enter negotiations with selected providers for all or part of the proposal components based on its selection criteria.

Renewal Proposals will be determined to receive:

- Increase in Funding (up to 10%)
- Maintain Current Level of Funding
- Reduction in Current Funding (specify recommended funding amount)
- No Funding



riplanning.org/community-impact/wccmhb | info@mentalhealth.wincoil.gov | bit.ly/m/WCCMHB





New Programmatic and Capital Proposals will be determined to receive:

Abstracts:

- Receive Full Application
- Receive Full Application with Modifications
- Do Not Receive Full Application

Applications:

- Fund in Full
- Fund in Part (specify recommended funding amount)
- No Funding



riplanning.org/community-impact/wccmhb | info@mentalhealth.wincoil.gov | bit.ly/m/WCCMHB

