



## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

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## WCCMHB Announces Application Deadlines for Accelerator Awards Funding to Enhance County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

**ROCKFORD, IL** – The Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB) is excited to announce key dates for **Accelerator Awards**, which are aimed at advancing mental health and substance use services in Winnebago County. The Accelerator Awards program seeks proposals that will accelerate time-sensitive projects and launch impactful capital improvement initiatives designed to strengthen and expand the county's mental health service delivery system.

With up to **\$2.9 million** remaining in funding, the WCCMHB is calling for innovative and transformative proposals that focus on three areas of capital improvement: **Human Capital**, **Social Capital**, and **Physical Capital**. This funding opportunity aligns with WCCMHB's mission to address emerging community needs and support collaborations around critical mental health and substance abuse service projects.

### Key Deadlines:

- **Letters of Interest Due:** November 1, 2024
- **Full Applications Due:** December 1, 2024

**HOW TO APPLY** - Organizations interested in applying for the Accelerator Awards must submit a **Letter of Interest** by **November 1, 2024**, followed by the full application by **December 1, 2024**. For more information on eligibility and the application process, please visit <https://r1planning.org/wccmhb> or contact Jason Holcomb, Director of Community Impact at [jholcomb@r1planning.org](mailto:jholcomb@r1planning.org).

**ABOUT WCCMHB** – The [Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board](#) (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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