



WCCMHB Program Years 7-9: Questions & Answers

V4: Updated: 10/26/2026

October 9th, 2026

Question: We are considering merging two currently funded programs – how would the 10% increase and the new request maximums apply?

Answer: We would advise you to file two separate renewal applications for the renewal programs and a new abstract for any additional and/or expanded services beyond the scope of the current programming. If it is appropriate to merge programs, that can be dealt with in the contracting phase.

October 11th, 2026

Question: Can an organization submit applications for both funding paths (New Programming and Capital)

Answer: Yes

Question: Can requests for capital and programming support different components of the same expansion project, with capital funding supporting the physical location and programmatic funding supporting staffing and service delivery?

Answer: Yes

Question: What types of expenses are eligible under the New Capital opportunity? Specifically, would property, renovations, and space build-outs qualify?

Answer: Those would be allowable expenses under capital

Question: Under the New Programmatic opportunity, would eligible expenses include salaries, supervision, operating costs, and partnerships that expand access to specific mental health services?

Answer: Yes

Question: Would provider training be an eligible program expense?

Answer: Yes, this would be an allowable expense under programmatic funding



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Question: Are there any restrictions or additional requirements to consider when developing coordinated capital and programmatic proposals?

Answer: Please make note of the funding request limits: "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."

October 12th, 2026

Question: Can a Grassroots awardee be a sub-awardee/contractor?

Answer: Yes

October 15th, 2026 Grantseekers Q&A Session:

Question: Can you give us some idea of what kind of project might be considered in the "other" category?

Answer: "Other" is meant to encompass any other mental health or substance use gap within the community an applicant has seen or experienced that is not outlined within the NOFO. The Strategic Planning process identified key areas where services or capital investment is needed, but applicants under the 'other' category must present strong evidence and data to support their claim.

Question: Can you elaborate on the term services?

Answer: Below are the services outlined in the NOFO. Please see the NOFO for more details.

-  Direct Service Types:
 - Crisis Response
 - Clinical Treatment
 - Case Management
 - Supportive Housing
 - Client Identification & Outreach
 - Peer Support
 - Family Support
 - Other (as approved by Board)
-  Indirect Service Types:
 - Workforce Development
 - Service Coordination
 - Community Education
 - Other (as approved by Board)



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Question: Could you please clarify how the 15% indirect limit is defined? Does it apply to the full program budget or the WCCMHB share, and is an exception possible?

Answer: Please refer to the complexity matrix in the pre-recorded meeting to see the different types of ways a program can structure its budget. If a program has multiple funding sources, that revenue must be accounted for and be part of the budget. For this program funding, all revenue and funding must be accounted for when calculating the 15% indirect rate. Indirect does not need to be itemized with expenditure evidence.

Question: Please clarify the capital funding grant, can buildings be purchased, if so how much is allowed?

Answer: Yes, buildings can be purchased or renovated. Total project costs can exceed that, but the maximum request limit for capital from the WCCMHB is \$2 million, and please be aware that "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."

Question: While WCCMHB funds cannot pay for physical health services, is medical clearance allowable when it is a prerequisite to psychiatric admission?

Answer: When it is medical clearance directly for a mental health admission, we are not aware of any limitations that would make it unallowable.

Question: Are the capital dollars separate from the programmatic funds? Could you apply for both the programmatic piece as well as the capital dollars?

Answer: Yes, WCCMHB has allotted \$75 million for the programmatic grants and \$10 million for capital grants. Yes, an organization can apply for both programmatic and capital dollars.

Question: We have been working with the middle schools on teens in need of mental health support. Can WCCMHB funds be used to purchase a van to get these teens to and from our facility to receive these services?

Answer: Yes, vehicles have been purchased as both a portion of an overarching programmatic grant as well as for one-time capital grants/Accelerator Awards.

Question: What is the max dollar amount for an organization's program?

Answer: Please see answers above as well as the NOFO concerning maximums for programmatic and capital grants.



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Question: Can providers and positions move service locations within a renewal? Additionally, if additional staff is requested, would those also fall within a renewal, or would a new abstract be required due to the requested change to the original program/staffing?

Answer: As long as it's within Winnebago County. If the scope of work remains the same, and the budget allows for additional staffing, you can include more staffing within the renewal. If its adding services or expanding the scope of work, file a new programmatic abstract for the new staff alongside the renewal. If both are awarded, the programs may be merged, if deemed appropriate.

Question: Can you say more about what the board is trying to achieve in terms of "cohesive programming" -- what are they looking for / how do they conceive of this?

Answer: Please refer to Strategic Plan 3.0, which outlines the conceptual models WCCMHB has been working with since its inception. It originated with the Community Support System (CSS) model, and has now evolved into the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) model based on recent research and best-practice.

October 19th, 2026:

Question: Can For-Profit businesses apply?

Answer: For-profit businesses can be a sub-awardee or subcontractor for a grant filed by an agency that is either a not-for-profit, hospital or healthcare organization, or a governmental entity.

Question: What type of relationship does the WCCMHB want its funded agencies to have with the CCBHC? Does it have to be a coordinated entry relationship, or having staffing at one of their locations? Do all WCCMHB-funded cases need to go through the CCBHC?

Answer: Not all MHB-funded cases have to go through the CCBHC/Rosecrance; only when it is applicable to that individual and their needs. A relationship with the CCBHC opens up a centralized variety of services and resources a client may need that an agency by itself may not offer, whether it be through referrals, MOUs, DCOs, etc. WCCMHB isn't requesting funded programs to have staff on-site at a CCBHC location.

Question: Should budgeting allow, could we add another case manager to our program within the renewal application? Or would that fall into the New Programming process?

Answer: As long as the position is able to be sustained and is an addition to already existing positions, then it is allowable within the renewal process. A new programming abstract would only need to be submitted if the position has a completely new scope of work and/or exceeds the 10% increase.



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October 20th, 2026:

Question: Would a scope of work change for a renewal program be considered a new program for the next cycle?

Answer: Yes

October 21st, 2026:

Question: For the capital grants, is an estimated budget breakdown sufficient? For example, if requesting money for a physical build, would estimates regarding construction, equipment, and architectural fees be sufficient?

Answer: Yes, estimated costs are fine, broken down by however is appropriate for that project. No formal budget will need to be completed for the capital grant process – awards will be deliverables-based, like Accelerator Awards were. If you can have estimated percentage breakdowns (like 75% of the award will be for construction, 25% will be for equipment), please put that.

Question: If organizations are currently being funded through grassroots funding, would they need to submit an abstract or submit a renewal application?

Answer: They would need to file an abstract for new programming and would have to give up their Grassroots award if funded for Core.

October 22nd, 2026 Grantseekers Q&A Session 2:

Question: "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." Does the limit apply to EACH (capital total request AND program total request) or to the total of capital and programming request COMBINED

Answer: Per request, not combined

Question: Are Foundant portal character count limits with or without spaces?

Answer: With spaces

Question: In the first Q&A, Jason noted that it's allowable to allocate the cost of direct administration and occupancy to the direct expenses (and not have to cover those via Indirect Expenses). Did I understand that correctly?

Answer: Yes, it is allowable to allocate costs in that way, but be aware of some funding policy requirements. An organizational policy with the cost-allocation calculations should be submitted as evidence when it comes to reimbursement.



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Question: How does eligibility work if our agency is headquartered outside of Winnebago County?

Answer: The agency must have an advisory committee composed of Winnebago County residents or stakeholders operational before funding starts.

Question: What level of licensure for mental health providers does the WCCMHB want

Answer: It depends on the nature of the program and service – there are no strict parameters as long as it's within the legal guidelines of the State of Illinois and follows professional regulatory guidelines.

Question: Can the LOI amount be different than the application amount, should the LOI be chosen for full application?

Answer: Put the highest end of what it could be on the LOI.

Question: Can the capital ask exceed your last three years' annual budgets? Is it the same as programmatic asks?

Answer: Same as the programmatic asks.

