



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Mental Health Board Announces Grassroots Funding Decisions

ROCKFORD, IL — Local mental health and substance use programs have been awarded funding through the half-cent sales tax. The Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB) awarded “Grassroots Funding,” for up to \$1.6 million over two years. Grassroots funding provides small, community-based organizations with additional money to connect mental health services to underserved people in Winnebago County.

“We are so thrilled to announce the award of funding to so many quality, community-based organizations who are on the frontlines addressing the needs of Winnebago County residents”, said Board President Mary Ann Abate “With this funding, these organizations will be able to better identify mental health needs and support connections to mental health services. This brings us closer to our goal for all Winnebago County residents who suffer from mental illness and substance use disorders to have the opportunity to live and recover in their home community.”

The selected organizations address the needs of the target populations of Serious Mental Illness (18+ yrs.), Serious Emotional Disturbances (3-21 yrs.), Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (0-5 yrs.), and Substance Use Disorders (all ages). Funding priorities include Mental Health Treatment, Case Management, Family & Community Support, Client Identification & Outreach.

The following programs were awarded funding, contingent upon the approval of funding agreements and work plans:

Organization Name	Project Name	Award
Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation	From Training to Treatment: Strengthening Mental Health Pathways	\$200,000.00
Rockford Area Arts Council	SPARK! at Washington Park	\$200,000.00
Northwest Community Center	Thriving in Winnebago County	\$199,914.34

Saints Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church	Emmaus Mental Health	\$200,000.00
Zion West Enterprise (lead agency/fiscal agent); State of the Mind Institute	Project Mentality Unchained	\$200,000.00
Comprehensive Community Solutions	Alive & Free	\$200,000.00
St Vincent de Paul Society Rockford Council	SVdP C.A.R.E.S. – SVdP- Compassionate Assistance for Recovery, Empowerment and Stability	\$200,000.00
Second Congregational / First Presbyterian Church	Overnight Cafe	\$47,000.00
Live4Lali	Project Backpack	\$151,368.75

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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