



News Release

For Immediate Release

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WCCMHB

Winnebago County
Community Mental
Health Board

\$70 Million Available for Mental Health Initiatives

ROCKFORD, IL — The Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB) seeks proposals to provide \$70 million worth of mental health and substance use programming over the next three years. These requests for proposals follow approval of an updated three-year strategic plan for mental health and substance use services in Winnebago County and include \$60 million for Core Programs and \$10 million for Accelerator Awards targeted at system capacity improvements.

For its Core Program funding, the Board will accept proposals from its current funded programs for renewal grants as well as new proposals to fill remaining service gaps that have been identified through the Board's planning process. Accelerator Awards will focus on capital projects that increase system capacity by extending services to underserved communities in Winnebago County and to bolster mental health training and educational opportunities for workforce development.

"Over the past three years we have learned that one of the biggest barriers for our grant programs is hiring qualified staff, so we knew we had to take a different approach this year, adding in our Accelerator Awards to address workforce and other system capacity challenges," says Board President Mary Ann Abate. "We feel confident that with more qualified providers and more service locations we will see the reduction of wait times for mental health services throughout Winnebago County."

A Notice of Funding Opportunity for each program can be found at r1planning.org/wccmhb-funding-resources. Additional resources will be posted to the website throughout the grant application period, such as registration for grant seekers meetings and Q&A summaries, as they become available.

Any general questions, feedback, or requests can be sent to info@mentalhealth.wincoil.us.

For requests for accommodations, contact Jason Holcomb, Director of Community Impact at Region 1 Planning Council. Email: jholcomb@r1planning.org Phone: (815) 277-1022.

ABOUT WCCMHB – 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. *Region 1 Planning Council provides staff support to the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board.*

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