

BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE




On Feb. 22, 2023, Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) announced 18 Building Healthier Communities: Behavioral Health Initiative grant awards totaling nearly \$15 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding across suburban Cook County to address dramatic increases in anxiety, depression and substance use since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to one 2021 study, nearly half of Americans reported recent symptoms of an anxiety or depression, and 10 percent of respondents felt their mental health needs were not being met.

CCDPH streamlined the grant application process to encourage all interested organizations and agencies to apply. Information sessions, and – for applicants not familiar with receiving grants – optional, capacity-building workshops about legal requirements and grant application skills, such as program design, monitoring and reporting.

CCDPH received an overwhelming 140 behavioral health grant applications, totaling more than \$120 million in requested funding; demonstrating the unprecedented need for mental health, positive youth development and opioid overdose prevention programs and services.

GRANT STRATEGIES

 Mental Health	 Positive Youth Development	 Opioid-Involved Overdose Prevention
Development, maintenance, and/or expansion of programs and services that improve the behavioral health of suburban Cook County residents through prevention and support approaches	Development, maintenance, and/or expansion of programs and services supporting positive youth development for suburban Cook County residents ages 0-24	Development, maintenance and/or expansion of harm reduction outreach programming for suburban Cook County residents in high-need areas
Tracks 1, 2	Tracks 1, 2	Track 3
8 grants awarded	7 grants awarded	3 grants awarded

EXECUTIVE SPONSOR

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GRANT AWARDS

Mental Health

- Hoffman Estates Department of Health and Human Services (\$250K)
- Shelter Inc. (\$250K)
- Black Alphabet (\$250K)
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago (\$1M)
- Arab American Family Services (\$1M)
- Legacy Medical Care (\$1M)
- Asian Health Coalition (\$1M)
- NAMI Metro Suburban (\$1M)

Positive Youth Development

- Kenneth Young Center (\$250K)
- Playworks Illinois (\$250K)
- Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault (\$250K)
- Girls on the Run Chicago (\$1M)
- Pillars Community Health (\$1M)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters (\$1M)
- Youth Guidance (\$1M)

Opioid-Involved Overdose Prevention*

- Family Guidance Centers (\$1.35M)
- Housing Forward (\$1.25M)
- Proactive Community Services (\$1.35M)

* Funded amounts in this category are rounded up

FUNDING PER GRANT

Mental Health & Positive Youth Development

Track 1: Up to \$250,000 over four years
Track 2: Up to \$1,000,000 over four years

Opioid-involved Overdose Prevention

Track 3: Up to \$1,345,715 over four years

TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

Tracks 1 and 2: \$10,983,603.48
Track 3: \$3,803,145