



# Building Healthier Communities

## Behavioral Health Grantees

JANUARY 2025



Cook County DEPT. of  
Public Health



# Building Healthier Communities: Behavioral Health Grantees




## OVERVIEW

To respond to the significant rise in anxiety, depression, and substance use as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) has allocated \$24 million in **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support 31 partner organizations across priority areas of suburban Cook County.**

In June 2024, CCDPH announced nine new grants aimed at addressing mental health needs identified by schools. These grants support school-based partners and the three suburban regional offices of education in providing educators with professional development, assessment tools, and ongoing support.

The nine new grants also include funding for four community organizations that were supported through other CCDPH initiatives, ensuring continued community-based support for local behavioral health initiatives.

## GRANT STRATEGIES

		
Mental Health	Positive Youth Development	Opioid-Involved Overdose Prevention
<p>Mental Health Screening</p> <p>Counseling and Support Groups</p> <p>Culturally responsive Mental Health First Aid training</p>	<p>Social/Emotional Learning and Mentoring</p> <p>Play and art-based programs</p> <p>LGBTQ+ Youth Support Services</p>	<p>Harm reduction services</p> <p>Naloxone and test strip distribution</p> <p>Community based drug checking</p>

## EXECUTIVE SPONSOR

Kiran Joshi, MD, MPH  
 Interim Chief Operating Officer  
 Cook County Department of Public Health  
[kjoshi@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:kjoshi@cookcountyhhs.org)

## CONTACT

Hanna Kite, MPH  
 Director of Community Behavioral Health  
 Cook County Department of Public Health  
[hanna.kite@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:hanna.kite@cookcountyhhs.org)

## 31 FUNDED PARTNERS

### Mental Health & Positive Youth Development

- Arab American Family Services
- Asian Health Coalition
- Aunt Martha’s Health and Wellness
- Barbara W. Smith Family Life Center
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Black Alphabet
- Community Consolidated School District 21
- Girls on the Run Chicago
- Hoffman Estates Department of Health and Human Services
- Kenneth Young Center
- Legacy Medical Care
- NAMI Chicago
- NAMI Metro Suburban
- North Cook Intermediate Service Center
- Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault
- Pathlights Human Services
- Pillars Community Health
- Playworks Illinois
- Quinn Center of St. Eulalia
- School District 89 Education Foundation
- Shelter Inc.
- South Cook Intermediate Service Center
- Thrive Counseling Center
- West40
- Youth Crossroads
- Youth Guidance
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

### Opioid-Involved Overdose Prevention

- Chicago Recovery Alliance
- Family Guidance Centers
- Housing Forward
- Proactive Community Services

## BY THE NUMBERS

As of October 2024, Mental Health and Positive Youth Development programs have served 23,510 individuals, with 6,068 receiving referrals for additional support services. These programs have also reached 812 schools across suburban Cook County, providing essential resources for youth and educators.

Between April 2023 and October 2024, Opioid-Involved Overdose and Prevention initiatives distributed 12,905 naloxone kits and conducted 9,065 naloxone training sessions. Additionally, these programs referred 7,238 clients to further support services, helping to respond to opioid use and reduce deaths from opioid overdose.

## SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS

*[A YWCA] advocate attended court with the mother of a murder victim in the south suburbs... The advocate assisted in finding therapy for the mother and the rest of the family both out of the country and those who live locally. Several family members have accepted resources from the advocate and have expressed how thankful they are to have an advocate help them.*

***Youth Guidance** counselors administer a Participant Experience Survey to students at the end of the school year capturing student satisfaction, perceptions, and future orientation. At both Thornton Fractional North and McKinley, 100% of students who completed the survey agreed that being in BAM (Becoming A Man) helped them learn to try again when things don't go as planned.*

***Family Guidance Centers** was invited to conduct [naloxone] education with the Phoenix Police Department... After our sessions officers discussed how they were educated and encouraged by the information received and felt a responsibility to assist those with substance use disorders. A few of them even shared how they had stereotypes that they have lived with long before their placement on the police force.*

***Pathlights** held its first [skills development class for older adults] at the Blue Island Public Library. At the end of class one of the attendees mentioned how much they enjoyed the class... Key factors that made this success happen are the partnership with the Blue Island Library, along with a well-organized curriculum.*

## NEW PARTNERS (2024-2026)

# POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & MENTAL HEALTH

### South Cook Intermediate Service Center (SCISC)

SCISC will conduct a needs assessment to provide schools and districts actionable data to improve their systems of trauma, social and emotional learning, mental health, and safety. They will also offer consultation, action planning, and professional learning designed to supplement district-level goals.

**Priority District(s): South suburbs**

### West40

West40 will develop a Children's Cabinet, complete with a Youth Voice Subcommittee; and implement a mental health professional learning series for school districts. They will also expand its Student Advocate Program to provide students with accessible and immediate support in their home districts.

**Priority District(s): West suburbs**

### North Cook Intermediate Service Center (NCISC)

NCISC will hire a Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Behavior Coordinator and a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Wellness Coordinator to coach and train educators, students, and families, while also integrating addiction counseling and resources to students and families in need.

**Priority District(s): North suburbs**

### Community Consolidated School District 21 (CCSD21)

CCSD21 will expand its partnerships to complement existing work to provide behavioral health services to its K-8 students and families at no cost. The district will also provide additional professional development opportunities to families and staff within Wheeling CCSD21.

**Priority District(s): North suburbs**

### School District 89 (SD89) Education Foundation

SD89 Education Foundation will apply the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework through afterschool programming at nine elementary and middle schools along with the Maywood Masonic Temple. SD89 will also deliver social emotional learning through a 10-week summer program.

**Priority District(s): West suburbs**

### Barbara W. Smith Family Life Center

Barbara W. Smith aims to enrich the lives of youth through education, lifestyle, recreation, social engagement, and direct services. They will provide mentoring and STEAM after-school activities to 3rd-8th grade youth. The center also runs an 8-week summer program featuring STEAM-related field trips.

**Priority District(s): North suburbs**

### Pathlights Human Services

Pathlights will expand an existing program that promotes mental health and well-being for older adults. They will develop a marketing campaign to address social isolation/loneliness, behavioral health, and the benefits of online connection. They will offer an older adult skills development program and deliver a 6-week session of classes in partnership with libraries.

**Priority District(s): South & Southwest suburbs**

### Quinn Center of St. Eulalia

Quinn Center of St. Eulalia will expand youth and family programs in Proviso Township to enhance mental health awareness, access to resources, and treatment. Quinn Center aims to foster connection, improve protective factors, and reduce risky behaviors as well as boost academic performance and future outlook.

**Priority District(s): West suburbs**

### Youth Crossroads

Youth Crossroads will provide middle and high school students mental health services, social and emotional learning, mentoring, and college and career preparation, and tutoring. Youth Crossroads also plans to provide community members access to counseling services.

**Priority District(s): West suburbs**

## POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (2023-2026)

### Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness Inc.

Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness Inc. provides behavioral health and health education seminars, classes, and events to youth and adolescents in suburban Cook County. They also provide access to a virtual application to promote mental wellness.

**Priority District(s):**  
South & Southwest suburbs

### Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS)

BBBS aims to address community risk factors experienced by youth and families in southland Chicago. BBBS will increase access to community resources and support through family engagement and long term one-to-one mentoring services for youth.

**Priority District(s):**  
South & Southwest suburbs

### Black Alphabet

Black Alphabet will address mental health disparities amongst Black LGBTQ+/SGL youth, adults, and seniors in the south and west suburbs of Cook County through art therapy.

**Priority District(s):**  
South & Southwest suburbs

### Girls on the Run Chicago

Girls on the Run Chicago help girls in grades 3-8 throughout suburban Cook County heal from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other adolescent trauma by providing them with a research-based curriculum that bolsters physical and mental health. Girls on the Run Chicago builds social and emotional skills and physical endurance.

**Priority District(s):**  
South & Southwest suburbs

### Kenneth Young Center (KYC)

KYC addresses barriers to positive youth development and LGBTQ+ support services, such as social media use, early exposure to familial trauma, lack of supervision, drug access, and lack of reliable transportation. It provides safe community spaces and scholarships for leadership conferences to promote youth civic engagement.

**Priority District(s):** North suburbs

### Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault (NWCASA)

NWCASA offers developmentally appropriate sexual violence prevention education for Northern Cook County students in Hanover Park and surrounding areas. The curriculum includes topics such as body safety, consent, how to report abuse for themselves or others, how to support someone who may become a victim of sexual abuse/assault, and resources for healing.

**Priority District(s):** North suburbs

### Pillars Community Health (PCH)

PCH addresses the unmet and increasing mental health needs of students by expanding access and services with The Loft at 8 Corners. The Loft is a mental health center that engages 7-12th grade youth in their mental health journey and encourages them to advocate for their own services and family support.

**Priority District(s):**  
West & Southwest suburbs

### Playworks Illinois

Playworks aims to give kids the opportunity to be physically active and practice socio-emotional skills like empathy and resilience. Playworks will advance positive youth development through youth leadership programs and professional development for school staff.

**Priority District(s):**  
West & Southwest suburbs

### Youth Guidance

Youth Guidance is expanding its Becoming a Man (BAM) program to address challenges faced by young men in grades 7-12 growing up in highly violent and disinvested communities. They will provide peer and group counseling supports that develop social-emotional competencies.

**Priority District(s):** South suburbs



## MENTAL HEALTH (2023-2026)

### Arab American Family Services

Arab American Family Services provides individual behavioral health services to fill the gap in linguistically appropriate services and to ensure that immigrant youth and adults can access services to improve their mental well-being. The program will also improve community capacity to recognize and address mental health issues.

**Priority District(s):**  
South & Southwest suburbs

### Asian Health Coalition (AHC)

Building on the success of its mental health initiatives in Chicago, AHC is expanding programs to the Arab, Black, and Latinx communities in suburban Cook. AHC addresses the full continuum of programs, from awareness raising to taking action; and from identifying concerns to linkage to care. AHC aims to eliminate the unnecessary burden of mental illness among persons of color.

**Priority District(s):**  
South & Southwest suburbs

### Hoffman Estates Department of Health and Human Services

Hoffman Estates Department of Health and Human Services is expanding mental health services to provide psycho-education, direct services, and outreach programming to the Latino/a/x community in suburban Cook County.

**Priority District(s):** North suburbs

### Legacy Medical Care

Legacy Medical Care works to increase access to treatment and prevention support through community and family engagement, outreach, and providing culturally responsive direct mental health services to suburban Cook County.

**Priority District(s):** North suburbs

### NAMI Chicago

NAMI Chicago's Helpline provides emotional support and information on mental health and substance use. NAMI Chicago refers callers to behavioral health resources, and assists in connecting to other social services when needed. They also offer intensive support for callers with significant needs.

**Priority District(s):** All suburbs

### NAMI Metro Suburban

NAMI Metro Suburban trains those with a lived mental health experience seeking a vocational career path in the mental health field to enhance the availability of and access to no-cost, community prevention, treatment, and supports for those in need of ongoing support or immediate mental health crisis stabilization.

**Priority District(s):** West suburbs



Graduates of **NAMI Metro Suburban's** CRSS Success Program celebrate after receiving their Recovery Support Specialist certification. Recovery Support Specialists are individuals with lived experience of recovery from mental health or substance use who provide behavioral health support in Living Rooms and other community settings.

## MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUED

### Shelter Inc.

Shelter Inc. is expanding their clinical program to provide mental health services to youth and young adults who have experienced trauma from abuse, neglect, or other family situations, by increasing access to direct mental health services. Shelter's clinical therapists provide mental health therapy for clients and their families at no charge.

**Priority District(s): All suburbs**

### Thrive Counseling Center

Thrive will expand its existing program to increase capacity and access to psychiatric services to treat mental illness in suburban Cook County. Thrive will provide access to psychiatric medications to under and uninsured residents. Thrive's care model utilizes Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners and Psychiatric Nurses, as they are more available and affordable than Psychiatrists.

**Priority District(s): West suburbs**

### YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago will expand its crisis intervention, crisis stabilization, and resource coordination for victims of sexual and community violence in suburban Cook County.

**Priority District(s): South suburbs**

## OPIOID-INVOLVED OVERDOSE PREVENTION (2023-2026)

### Chicago Recovery Alliance (CRA)

CRA provides training, mentorship, support, and ongoing technical assistance to organizations wishing to develop drug-checking services. This expands the availability of drug-checking services in Cook County, making this potentially lifesaving intervention available to more people at risk of death due to overdose.

**Priority District(s): West & Southwest suburbs**

### Family Guidance Centers

Family Guidance Centers provides harm reduction services through a development and operation of a Mobile Opioid Overdose Harm Reduction Unit. FGC will use this unit to distribute fentanyl strips, naloxone kits and training, and to offer harm reduction counseling services for those interested in more treatment options.

**Priority District(s): South & Southwest suburbs**

### Housing Forward

Housing Forward works to reduce negative physical and mental health outcomes associated with opioid use through access to wrap-around clinical and supportive services for homeless and housing unstable opioid users at trusted community-based organization locations.

**Priority District(s): West & Southwest suburbs**

### Proactive Community Services (PCS)

PCS provides community-based overdose prevention to increase support for at-risk individuals with or at risk of developing substance disorders. PCS project staff deliver evidence-based harm reduction interventions, education sessions, and training workshops. PCS also distributes opioid overdose reversal medication, harm reduction kits, and rapid-acting fentanyl test strips.

**Priority District(s): South suburbs**



**Family Guidance Center (FGC)** staff test community drug samples for samples that cause overdose using a highly specialized machine. FGC provides mobile harm reduction and treatment services in the south and southwest suburbs.



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