

Mental Health Referendum

Mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse affect a significant number of people in our community. In Winfield Township, mental illness issues alone conservatively cost **\$719** per capita or **\$110,000,000** per year. *

1 What is the problem?



1 in 5 adults experiences a mental illness in a given year.



1 in 6 children have a developmental disability such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, Down's syndrome, or other neurological conditions.



1 in 5 youth aged 13-18 experiences a severe mental health disorder at some point during their life.

1 in 10

youth aged 12 and older have used an illicit drug such as heroin, cocaine or marijuana in the last month.

2 What will passing this referendum mean to you and your family?



Ability to act quickly when families are in crisis.



Comprehensive local support of services targeted to the needs of the local community to ensure that preventative and therapeutic programs are streamlined, accessible, and affordable for all residents in the Township.



Reduce or eliminate gaps in service such as long waiting lists or arbitrary cutoff limits.



Screening for prevention and early detection.



And...the State of Illinois is ranked 35th among all states in spending on mental health and 43rd in spending for developmental disabilities.

3 What you can do?

In November of 2022, we have an opportunity to support a small property tax increase to establish a Community Mental Health Board that would ensure that all residents of Winfield Township have equal access to a high quality, comprehensive care delivery system for people affected by mental illness, addiction, or developmental disabilities.

In Illinois, Community Mental Health Boards are created by a referendum approved by the voters. The volunteer Board consisting of 7-9 local residents with a vested interest in the community would be appointed by the Township Supervisor.

4 What does it cost?

Under Illinois law, the maximum property tax rate increase for the Board is 0.15% of the property's current assessed value. The actual rate may be significantly less based on community needs, but never more than 0.15%. The **Bloomington Township Board assessed .0214% in 2019 or \$21.40 on a \$300,000 home.** Each Township that passes the referendum will set the rate for their community. **Winfield Township expects a levy of approximately \$20 on a \$300,000 home**

Shall Winfield Township in DuPage County levy an annual tax not to exceed 0.15% for the purpose of providing community mental health facilities and services including facilities and services for the person with a developmental disability or a substance abuse disorder, which levy will have a single additional tax of a maximum of 0.15% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein extended for such purposes?



*SAMSHA Projections of Expenditures for Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders 2010-2020.

For more information, find us on Facebook: Mental Health Boards for DuPage

Paid for by Friends for Winfield Township Mental Health Board

Frequently Asked Questions

Q

What about the mental health services at DuPage County?

A

DuPage County has some great programs but primarily provides behavioral health services for those on Medicaid.

Q

Shouldn't we just donate to our local charity?

A

Charities play a vital role, but public funding provides long-term continuity and stability through sustaining grants, allowing providers to spend less time fundraising and more time providing services.

Q

I have insurance-- Why should I vote for a Mental Health Board?

A

- Even with insurance, you may wait for a psychologist or social worker because of current shortages.
- A provider may not be in your plan, or if in plan, may not be in your area.
- A large deductible plan may mean out of pocket until you meet that deductible.

Q

How much is this going to cost?

A

Under Illinois law, the maximum property tax rate increase for the Board is 0.15% of the property's current assessed value. The actual rate is estimated to be significantly less for Winfield Township based on community needs, but never more than 0.15%.

Q

What can a mental health board fund?

A

- Social workers in schools and police departments
- Mental health screening starting in preschool
- Mental Health Telehealth services
- Teen prevention services
- Substance abuse programs
- Respite for caregivers of children and adults with disabilities
- Suicide intervention programs
- Employment and vocational training for people with intellectual disabilities
- More providers who offer mental health services to those who have I/DD (intellectual/developmental disabilities)
- Mental health services for seniors
- Provide funds for those who cannot afford medications related to mental health

Our township is not alone in advocating for a 708 mental health board. In DuPage County, Bloomingdale and Milton Townships already have mental health boards, while Lisle, Addison, and Naperville, along with north suburban Wheeling, Schaumburg and Vernon Townships, will all have 708 Board referendums on the ballot this November. Will County also voted to put this referendum on their ballot. Programs for mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities have been underfunded for years. It's time to provide a safety net for our community.