

Mental Health Millage

Frequently Asked Questions



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- Community Mental Health of Ottawa County (CMHOC) is experiencing an unprecedented funding crisis with anticipated revenue losses of nearly \$7 million dollars in the next four years. Critical programming and services to our most vulnerable citizens are being reduced and in some cases discontinued.
- CMHOC is requesting 0.3 mills which will generate \$3.2 million annually for 10 years. This will cost the owner of a \$100,000 house \$30 per year.
- The millage funding will not be used to replace or supplant services that are provided with Medicaid or State General Fund dollars.
- If CMHOC receives dollars from the millage, it will not reduce the amount of funding CMHOC receives from the State.
- The millage will allow CMHOC to continue to provide safety net services and programming including mental health treatment, employment services, psychosocial activities, jail services, prevention services, and transportation for adults and children with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or severe emotional disorders.
- The millage will allow CMHOC to provide necessary treatment services to individuals who have no insurance or who have high deductibles. These individuals are currently placed on a waiting list for services or referred to community providers who are not always able to meet their needs. These are people who have faced severe mental health crises and would greatly benefit from treatment to provide stabilization.
- The millage will be used to increase psychosocial participation, social skill development, and community integration for adults and children with developmental disabilities by developing community hub centers in each quadrant of the County.
- The millage will be used for transportation services to employment and psychosocial activities which will increase community inclusion, promote independence, and improve quality of life.
- The millage will be used to support mental health awareness and prevention programming such as trauma training for schools, Child Protective Service workers, law enforcement, and various community groups; advancement of the Mental Health First Aid trainings; suicide prevention education opportunities; and community health workers.
- The millage will be used to support jail service expansion including psychiatric services; in-house counseling and mental health crisis services, prisoner re-entry services; and additional services at juvenile detention to assist with transitioning youth to community services.

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Frequently Asked Questions - Proposed Programs & Descriptions



Mental Health Treatment Services

Funding will be used to provide mental health treatment services to adults and children with the severe mental illness and developmental disabilities who do not currently qualify for services due to insurance status or unaffordable deductibles and to those individuals for whom traditional outpatient treatment is not adequate. Programming will allow us to end our general fund waiting list and serve individuals in need immediately. Services will be provided by CMHOC treatment teams and contract providers.

Employment Services

CMHOC has a comprehensive employment services model being implemented in part due to the closure of Kandu Incorporated. This model allows for skill building, supported, and competitive employment for adults and youth with mental illness and developmental disabilities in an effort to improve and enhance employment options. Funding will be used to hire an employment services coordinator, business liaisons, and provide ongoing coaching and support staff.

Psychosocial Activities

Funding will be used to increase psychosocial participation, social skill development, and community integration for adults and children with mental illness and developmental disabilities. Programming will include staff and resources for community hub centers for persons with developmental disabilities in each quadrant of the county including a volunteer coordinator; implementation of a leisure and recreational club to coordinate opportunities to access the community; tuition to cover therapeutic camps and other summer programs for school aged children, and additional funding for the Drop In Center.

Transportation

Funding will be used for transportation services for employment and psychosocial activities to increase community inclusion, promote independence, and improve quality of life.

Prevention and Integrated Health

Funding will be used to support mental health awareness, prevention, and early intervention programming such as trauma training for schools, Child Protective Service workers, law enforcement, and various community groups; a Mental Health First Aid trainer/coordinator; suicide prevention education opportunities; and community health workers.

Jail Services

Jail service expansion will include psychiatric services; in-house counseling and mental health crisis services, prisoner re-entry services; and additional services at juvenile detention to assist with transitioning youth to community services.

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