



Milton Township Community Mental Health Board

Local Care. Lasting Impact.

Strategic Plan 2026-2028



Milton Township Community Mental Health Board

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Our History

In 2020, Milton Township voters approved a referendum that established the Milton Township Community Mental Health Board to fund mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder programs that serve township residents. The Act calls for the establishment of a community mental health board to administer local funds and plan and coordinate services within the local behavioral health system. In July 2021, seven Milton Township residents were appointed to serve on the inaugural community mental health board. In 2025, the board was expanded to nine members.

Our Mission

The Board's mission is to improve access to and the quality of behavioral health services, including mental health, intellectual and developmental disability supports, and substance use disorder services for township residents through planning, funding, collaboration, education, and evaluation of community needs.

Our Principles

Increase system-wide coordination and collaboration.

Increase public awareness of behavioral health needs in the community and available support resources.

Conduct ongoing assessment to identify community needs and priorities.

Allocate local tax funds effectively and responsibly.

Monitor and report on community impact.



2026 – 2028

Goal One

Increase Public Awareness and Expand Community Education

Objective: Ensure residents and stakeholders understand the purpose and impact of the Community Mental Health Board and its funded partners.

Strategies:

- 1) Provide 2–3 community educational events per year.
- 2) Post a minimum of **2 social media updates per month** highlighting services, awareness campaigns, and funding partner impact.
- 3) Publish **at least two annual editorials, newsletter articles, or press releases** highlighting Board priorities or funded outcomes.
- 4) Maintain an up-to-date webpage with:
 - Meeting calendar, agenda, and minutes
 - Funded partner listings
 - Grant opportunities
 - Annual impact summaries



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Goal Two

Identify Community Needs and Service Priorities

Objective: Use data-driven decision-making to identify gaps, emerging trends, and priority service areas.

Strategies :

- 1) Conduct or participate in a formal needs assessment
- 2) Use needs assessment findings to:
 - Identify service gaps
 - Adjust funding priorities
 - Inform grant application criteria
- 3) Develop targeted, rapid cycle funding mechanisms for:
 - Capacity building
 - Short-term or urgent needs



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Goal Three

Deploy Resources to Serve Milton Township Residents

Objective: Ensure funding is equitably distributed, strategically aligned, and responsive to resident needs.

Strategies:

- 1) Review and refine grant application policies and procedures annually.
- 2) Award funding to organizations addressing unmet needs in:
 - Mental health
 - Substance use disorder services
 - Intellectual and developmental disability supports
- 3) Assign Board Liaisons to funded partners to:
 - Strengthen communication
 - Increase Board understanding of program operations
 - Facilitate site visits or program tours at least once per funding cycle
- 4) Monitor fiscal performance and maintain financial accountability by:
 - Meeting annual budget goals
 - Ensuring compliance with levy and statutory requirements



2026 – 2028

Goal Four

Build Internal Capacity of the 708 Board

Objective: Strengthen Board operations, governance, and collaboration to maximize community impact.

Strategies:

- 1) Annually review operations, policies, and best practices from other Illinois 708 Boards.
- 2) Provide mentorship and technical support to emerging Community Mental Health Boards.
- 3) Offer annual opportunities for funded partners to present to or meet with the Board to report on service reach and community impact and inform grant making.
- 4) Ensure full compliance with annual reporting requirements of the Illinois Mental Health Act and any legislative or regulatory changes affecting 708 Boards
- 5) Maintain active membership in the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois (ACMHA).



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Goal Five

Strengthen Cross System Collaboration to Maximize Community Resources and Impact

Objective: Establish partnerships with other boards, county departments, and community agencies to coordinate planning, funding strategies, and service delivery.

Strategies:

- 1) Create and/or participate in opportunities for cross-agency communication and planning to share data, identify emerging community needs, and coordinate strategic responses.
- 2) Promote a coordinated continuum of care
- 3) Support funded partners in identifying and leveraging supplemental funding when appropriate.



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Our Commitment and Vision

From 2026 through 2028, the Board will focus on building a more visible, responsive, and coordinated system of care, one that adapts to changing community needs while maintaining transparency and accountability to residents.

We envision a community where:

- Residents understand the purpose and value of the Community Mental Health Board and know how to access services
- Local service providers work collaboratively to meet mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability needs
- Funding decisions are guided by data, community input, and measurable outcomes
- Resources are used efficiently and strategically to maximize impact





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<https://miltontownship.net/about-us/>