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***Milton Township Community Mental Health Board Announces Historic \$1.3 Million in Funding
Local Community Mental Health Board Leads Way Through Support and Innovation***

[Milton Township, IL] — [February 24, 2026] — The Milton Township 708 Community Mental Health Board (CMHB or 708 Board) recently awarded a historic \$1.3 million in grants to strengthen the services of 27 local mental health agencies in 2026.

“The Milton Township Mental Health Board is proud to invest \$1.3 million in critical community-based services for mental health, substance use disorder, and developmental and intellectual disabilities,” explains Shannon Hartnett, President of the Milton Township CMHB, “This funding reflects our ongoing commitment to partnering with trusted providers to ensure residents have timely, high-quality support close to home.”

[Milton Township’s Community Mental Health Board](#) exists to advance mental health and substance abuse prevention and intervention programs, as well as services supporting community members with developmental/intellectual disabilities. This mission is carried out as a grantor, advisor, and advocate.

This year’s grant recipients included Wheaton-based Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV). The 708 Board granted \$100,000 to MSHV’s Veterans Empowerment Therapy & Support Program (VETS). Ozzy Salcedo, Affordable & Permanent Supportive Housing Case Manager at MSHV, expressed appreciation for this partnership and the impact it will have on local veterans: “First and foremost, we are deeply grateful to the Milton Township Community Mental Health Board. This partnership allows us to expand our reach and provide life-saving mental health resources to even more veterans in our township.” He continued, “The VETS Program fills a critical gap by providing local, specialized, trauma-informed care that addresses the unique challenges veterans face, including transitional stress.” What began as a pilot program can now be expanded because of this grant.

CMHB as Innovative Grantor.

The Milton Township CMHB designed an innovative grant application process to be accessible, transparent, and responsive to evolving community needs—allowing organizations of varying sizes to participate while ensuring accountability and measurable impact.

Once funds are awarded, CMHB conducts rigorous and ongoing oversight throughout the year. Each Community Mental Health Board member completes site visits to grant recipients and writes reports regarding the grants and their impact. The Board then reviews all recipients' grant expenditures mid-year, helping ensure accountability and mission alignment.

Milton Township's CMHB will open the 2027 application process on July 1, 2026. A list of recent grant recipients can be found [here](#).

CMHB as Trailblazing Advisor and Advocate.

The Board's leadership extends beyond grantmaking. Widely regarded as a trailblazer among community mental health boards, Milton Township's 708 CMHB has become a model for other townships seeking to establish or strengthen their area's mental health funding programs. Board members actively share best practices and guidance with neighboring communities helping them navigate the funding of strategic and sustainable mental health initiatives.

Established in 2020, this 708 Board's impact increases year over year. A significant highlight of the Board's work in 2025 was a grant of \$100,000 to the DuPage County Crisis Recovery Center (CRC), a critical resource providing immediate stabilization and recovery services for individuals experiencing mental health crises. Such support reflects the Board's focus on strengthening the local continuum of care and addressing urgent community needs.

Through grantmaking and community presentations, CMHB provides information to community residents to increase public awareness and education of behavioral health needs in the community and advocate for supportive resources

The Community Mental Health Board invites you to their monthly meetings held on the 1st Thursday of every month at 1492 N. Main St., Wheaton, IL, at 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

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[About the Milton Township Community Mental Health Board.](#)

Milton Township responds to its residents' needs by providing vital services such as assistance for youth, seniors, and people with disabilities, health/wellness, emergency relief, and much more. The Township's Community Mental Health Board exemplifies how local government can

play a meaningful role in advancing mental health outcomes through strategic grantmaking and local leadership. CMHB's leadership is comprised of volunteers representing mental health experts, practitioners, and advocates. Also known as 708 boards, after House Bill 708, CMHBs were first established by the Community Mental Health Act (405 ILCS20/) in 1963.