



McLean County

Behavioral Health Coordination

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Document Type	Notice of Funding Opportunity
Funding Opportunity Title	2026 Emerging Opportunities for Behavioral Health Support in McLean County: Quarter 4
Awarding Agency	McLean County Board through the department of Behavioral Health Coordination
Award Source	Mental Health and Public Safety Fund
Program Service Area	McLean County, Illinois
Total Available Funding	\$60,527.25
Anticipated Number of Awards	1-6
Award Range	\$5,000-\$60,000
Funding Period	October 15 th , 2026-December 31st, 2026
Posted Date	August 31st, 2026
Date Updated	N/A
Deadline for Applications	12 PM Noon September 25, 2026

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1) Description

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) sets forth application requirements for those applying for Emerging Opportunities for Behavioral Health Support in McLean County.

a) Background

This funding opportunity has been made possible by the Mental Health and Public Safety Fund (MHPSF), which is administered by the County of McLean, in part, through the department of Behavioral Health Coordination.

The MHPSF was created in 2016 by a twenty-year Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and County of McLean to “create a community-wide commitment to diversified funding for Mental Health Services”. The [Behavioral Health Coordination \(BHC\) department](#) was created by the County of McLean to support administration of the fund for the agreed purpose of supporting “community behavioral health initiatives, services and programs consistent with the McLean County Behavioral Health Action Plan...”.

The [Behavioral Health Action Plan \(BHAP\)](#), also historically referred to as the Mental Health Action Plan, is created and updated by the [Behavioral Health Coordinating Council \(BHCC\)](#), which provides guidance on scope of work for these initiatives, services and programs.

BHCC was originally an advisory group to the Executive Committee of the McLean County Board but was restructured in 2024 as an independent ad hoc group that maintains oversight over the BHAP, and includes membership from the County, City, and Town to ensure alignment with the IGA.

To continue to provide direct advisory support to the Executive Committee of the McLean County Board, which “budgets the Pledged Revenue through its normal and customary budgeting process”, the [Mental Health and Public Safety Funding Advisory Council \(FAC\)](#) was also established in 2024. The FAC meets at least annually to “provide formal recommendations to the McLean County Board for budgeting and allocation of funds available through the [MHPSF] in alignment with strategic priorities”. In November 2025, McLean County Board, with the recommendation of the FAC, approved \$2,200,000 of the MHPSF for community projects, 20% of which has been earmarked for emerging needs, and ~3% are typically available in any given NOFO period such as Quarter 4 of 2026.

b) Scope of Work

These grants are available for events, circumstances, or opportunities related to behavioral health that were previously unknown, and/or could not have been reasonably planned for.

The focus for this grant cycle is to support essential community behavioral health services for programs/agencies that have:

- experienced an unexpected funding loss which has or will interrupt the services they will be able to provide in 2026; or
- been notified they will experience a funding loss in 2026 which has or will interrupt the services they will be able to provide in 2026

In this case, “essential community behavioral health services” refers to services that are either:

- unduplicated in the community (e.g. a program that runs the only substance use support group in the area),
- or services that may be duplicated in type, but are unique to a specific population that has limited access to said services (e.g. a program that runs the only gambling support group for veterans in the area; without it, the area will lose gambling support groups for this population)

And are aligned with the Recommendations of the 2026-2028 Behavioral Health Action Plan with an emphasis on the following:

- Community Engagement and Outreach
- Service Access and Delivery
- Workforce Support

The categories above may receive preferential selection.

2) Funding Information

The total amount of funds available for this emerging needs cycle is \$60,527.25, which is to be awarded between August 31st, 2026 and as late as December 31st, 2026. Only

costs for work performed and/or goods or services received on or before December 31st, 2026 are eligible for the grant. The total amount of funds awarded to applicants is at the discretion of the County of McLean, and the County of McLean makes no assurances that funds will be available for all applicants. The County of McLean is not obligated to make any award by releasing this NOFO or receiving applications in response to it.

3) Eligibility

This opportunity is limited to applicants who meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be an entity that provides behavioral health services to McLean County residents.
- Applicants must be able to reasonably fulfill the services as proposed in their application.
- Applicants must comply with legal, fiscal, reporting, and programming requirements associated with those services proposed.
- Applicants proposing the use of funds to provide services that require state or federal licensure must be actively licensed.
- All entities must be qualified to do business with the County of McLean and must not be on federal or state business debarment lists.
- Applicants from the prior 2026 Q1 or Q2 or Q3 Emergent or 2026 Annual NOFO cycles may reapply for this quarter. However, applicants who were awarded funds must explain if they have been seeking other funding.

4) Process

The process for receiving, evaluating, and awarding this grant is as follows:

- 1) Applications are due by 12PM September 25th, physically at the Administration Office of McLean County, (115 E. Washington Street, Room 400, Bloomington, IL 61701). Applications will be opened publicly at 12:05PM in Room 400 of the Government Center building at 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.
- 2) Applications will be reviewed by an evaluation team, who will either recommend the application for award or not recommend the application for award. They will also make a recommendation for the amount to be awarded. **Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by October 15th.**
 - a. The evaluation team will be a body of 3-5 evaluators without a conflict of interest related to the application. Evaluators will be selected by the BHC

department from a pool of volunteers based on their expertise and experience. Every effort will be made to include at least one non-professional who has experience receiving the type of services proposed, would have benefited from the services proposed at one time, or could currently benefit from the services proposed.

- 3) If the application is recommended for award by the evaluation team, the applicant and BHC department will submit the applicant's proposed contract to the County's legal department for review and then present the contract to the Executive Committee of the County Board on Monday, October 12th at 4PM.

Applicants who receive a recommendation should plan for a representative to be present at this meeting.

- 4) If the contract is approved by the Executive Committee of the County Board, it will be presented for final approval by the County Board on Thursday, October 15th at 5:30 PM. **Applicants who receive a recommendation should plan for a representative to be present at this meeting.**

- a. On approval from the County Board, the contract will be executed, and the funds will be disbursed as provided for in the contract.

5) Post Award Requirements

Organizations who receive an award as a result of this NOFO shall be subject to the following conditions:

a) Authorized Use of Funds

Awarded funds may be used solely and exclusively for the project or initiative proposed in the application and approved by the County and only for goods, services or programs performed or completed on or before December 31st, 2026. Funds may not be used for any other purpose without the County's prior written approval.

b) Disbursement of Funds

Upon execution of the contract, the County will make an initial disbursement of at least 50% of the approved total award. Release of additional funds beyond the initial disbursement may be authorized and released by the County upon demonstration of:

- Expenses already incurred in an amount greater than 50% of the total project cost
- Financial need
- Substantial completion of project

Invoices for these 2026 expenses may be submitted and processed in 2027.

c) Reporting and Documentation

Awardees must provide a financial statement with any and all invoices, in a format to be confirmed by the County, and supportive documentation related to expenses when requested. Frequency and nature of the documentation will vary based on proposed services.

i) Deliverables, Performance Measures, and Performance Standards

Awardees will need to provide data about the services provided by the funds after services have been provided. Reporting criteria will vary depending on the program or service supported, but may include:

- Demographic information of individuals or families served
- Number of services rendered
- Number of unique individuals or families served
- Number of encounters
- Number of trainings conducted
- Rate of service or program completion

Awardees should include their recommended criteria for deliverables and performance measurement in their application.

d) Audit and Oversight

The County reserves the right to review, inspect, and audit financial and other records relating to the expenditure of awarded funds. Organizations must cooperate fully with any such review or audit.

e) Non-Compliance

Any reimbursement request that does not conform to the approved scope of work or agreement terms will be denied. Funds reimbursed for unauthorized purposes must be repaid to the County. Failure to comply with reporting or documentation requirements may result in suspension or termination of contract that results from this NOFO upon notice from the County.

f) Compliance

Applicants shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.

g) Indemnification

If awarded a contract with the County of McLean, the applicant must agree to indemnify and hold harmless the County, its officials, agents, and employees from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, injuries, or expenses arising from the applicant's use of the awarded funds.

h) Termination

The County may terminate any contract immediately, upon giving the applicant notice, if funds are used for an unauthorized purpose or if the applicant fails to comply with any term outlined in this NOFO or the contract.

6) Submission Requirements

Submissions must include the following:

- A completed application
- Draft contract of services in Microsoft Word format

Include project scope of services, the total amount requested, intended method of documenting use of funds, and other relevant legal compliance obligations, including the requirements listed in Section 5 of this NOFO and the required provisions outlined in [Article III of Chapter 116 of the McLean County Code](#). The County reserves the right to negotiate the final agreement prior to any disbursement.

- W-9 for associated entity or organization
- Relevant certificate(s) of insurance

When submitting an application physically, please write "MCBHC 2026 Emerging Needs Q4" on the envelope. All physical submissions must include one (1) paper copy and one (1) electronic media copy (i.e. thumb drive), and should be mailed or delivered to:

McLean County Administrator
Room 401
115 East Washington Street,
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

The Issuing Office is located at 115 East Washington Street, Room 401, Bloomington, Illinois 61701 and is the sole point of contact for clarification regarding this RFP process. The Grants Program Manager for the McLean County Behavioral Health Coordination Department, Ms. Ashwini Gokhale, shall be the point of contact for clarifications regarding content and technical specifications. All correspondence pertaining to these two (2) matters should be appropriately addressed to the contact persons below:

NOFO Process Questions

Ms. Cassy Taylor, McLean County Administrator
Telephone: (309) 888-5110
e-mail: cassy.taylor@mcleancountyil.gov

Content and Technical Specifications

Ms. Ashwini Gokhale, Grant Program Manager
Telephone: (309) 888-5700
e-mail: ashwini.gokhale@mcleancountyil.gov

7) Application

**2026 Emerging Opportunities for Behavioral Health Support in McLean County
Application**

Basic Information

Please provide details of your organization.

Name of Organization: _____

Primary Contact Name (First and Last): _____

Primary Contact Email: _____

Primary Contact Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address for Organization:

Geographic Area Served by your Organization:

Please provide a brief description of your organization's purpose and mission.

Project Details

This section gathers details about the project itself.

Project Title:

What essential behavioral health services have been or will be interrupted?

Describe the circumstances resulting in this need being unexpected or emergent.

Is the service your project provides duplicated in the community? ____ Yes ____ No

If the service your project provides is duplicated in the community, is there a population your project serves that would otherwise go unserved? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, explain.

Which of the Recommendations from the Behavioral Health Action Plan does your request apply to and explain how.

Funding and Accountability

This section serves to gather details on the funding you are requesting as well as to confirm you will comply with reporting requirements.

Total Project Funding Requested: \$_____

Please include your funding budget breakdown as an attachment to your application.

[illegible]

Have you received funding from our prior 2026 Q1 or Q2 or Q3 Emergent or 2026 Annual NOFO? ____ Yes ____ No

If you answered "Yes" to the above question, have you sought funding elsewhere?

____ Yes ____ No

Please explain.

