McLean County
Behavioral Health Coordination

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Document Type	Notice of Funding Opportunity
Funding Opportunity Title	2027 Opportunities for Behavioral Health Support in McLean County
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	$2,016,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	1-6
Award Range	Up to $1,411,200 for annual projects, up to $604,800 for multi-year projects
Funding Period	2027
Posted Date	September 21, 2026
Date Updated	N/A
Deadline for Applications	Noon October 16, 2026

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1) Description

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) sets forth application requirements for those applying for 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 2026, McLean County Board, with the recommendation of the FAC, is expected to approve $2,520,000 of the MHPSF for community projects, $2,016,000 of which has been earmarked for this grant in 2027.

b) Scope of Work

The purpose of this grant is to meet behavioral health needs in the community based on the recommendations of the 2026-2028 Behavioral Health Action Plan in the focus areas of Service Access and Delivery, Community Engagement and Outreach, and Workforce Support. The plan is available for review through the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council's website, or on the McLean County Behavioral Health Coordination department webpage.

2) Funding Information

The total amount of funds available is $2,016,000, which is to be awarded for 2027. Only costs for work performed and/or goods or services received on or before December 31st, 2027 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 or is proposing to provide 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.

4) Process

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

1) Applications should be received by 12PM October 16th 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 December 1.**
    a. The evaluation team will be a body of at least 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 December 14th 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 December 17 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,

2027. 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 award funds under this NOFO on a reimbursement basis only. Eligible expenses must be incurred and paid by the awardee prior to submission of a reimbursement request. Advance payments will not be made. No reimbursement will be made for work performed or goods or services received before the start of the contract term.

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 including 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, please write "2027 Behavioral Health NOFO" on the envelope. All submissions must include one (2) 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 NOFO process. The Grants Program Manager of 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,, Behavioral Health Coordination Grants Program Manager
Telephone: (309) 888-5700
e-mail: ashwini.gokhale@mcleancountyil.gov

7) Application

2027 McLean County Behavioral Health Action Plan Notice of Funding Opportunity 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:

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

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Project Details
This section gathers details about the project itself.

Project Title:

What behavioral health services do you plan on providing?

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Describe the circumstances resulting in a need in the community for your services.

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Please place a check mark next to which actions from the Behavioral Health Action Plan (BHAP) your project applies to. For your reference, these are the guiding principles from the BHAP: grounded in local realities, connected to bigger picture of health and wellbeing, committed to collaborative problem solving and data-informed innovation, & focused on building capacity and support systems. Your application will be evaluated both on the actions from the BHAP it fulfills and how well it aligns with the guiding principles.

____ Increase service availability and positive outcomes for vulnerable members of our community

____ Increase coordination and integration of services for individuals with complex needs

____ Advance solutions to providing permanent supportive housing to qualifying individuals

Please list which action(s) the project will address and how

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Partnerships, Collaboration, and Coordination Capacity

Describe the partnerships and collaborative relationships that support the proposed program.

Please include:

- Key partners and their role in the proposed program, as applicable
- How coordination and communication occur among partners; and
- How these partnerships strengthen program delivery and behavioral health access, engagement, coordination, continuity of case, workforce development, or overall behavioral health system functioning, as applicable

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_____

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.

Is funding required beyond 2027 (if you select yes, your application will be considered for the multi-year grant)? _____ Yes _____ No

Please explain why funding is required beyond 2027 (if you selected Yes above):

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If funding is required beyond 2027, please indicate the amount of funding requested for each year, 2027 up to at most 2029:

Year	**Amount**	**Purpose of funding specific to the year and an explanation of why the funding can't all be spent in 2027**	**Metrics specific to each year**
2027			
2028			
2029			

What funding sources also apply to this proposal? Please check all that apply.
_____ State General Revenue
_____ Local General Revenue
_____ Tribal Authority Revenue
_____ Medicaid Match
_____ Federal Medicaid Revenue
_____ Other Federal Entitlement Funding
_____ Federal Block Grants
_____ Federal Formula Grants
_____ Other Federal Funding (such as Federal discretionary grants)
_____ Non-governmental (such as foundation funding)

What are the quantitative and/or qualitative metrics to measure success of your project?

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Please explain how you propose to evaluate services and determine whether the targeted level of care is being maintained adequately.

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Will you comply with all reporting requirements, including but not limited to legal, fiscal, reporting, and programming requirements? ____ Yes ____ No