# Stronger Together: Building a More Equitable Behavioral Health System in Cook County

# Grant Application

Stronger Together: Building a More Equitable Behavioral Health System in Cook County Initiative aims to address behavioral health inequities across the region’s system of care through increased systems alignment, enhanced system quality, and the expansion of access to early intervention and prevention, treatment, support, recovery, and crisis assessment and care. This initiative led by the Office of Behavioral Health at Cook County Health, are supported by funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury, under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Applications are due on **Wednesday, April 17th, 2024,** no later than **5:00 PM CT.** Applications also require that organizations complete and submit a Work Plan Template and Budget Narrative along with this Application. All questions regarding this Open Call should be emailed to [StrongerTogetherOpenCall@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:StrongerTogetherOpenCall@cookcountyhhs.org).

# Section A: Applicant Criteria

1. **Executive Director (ED)/Chief Executive Officer Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.
2. **ED/Chief Executive Officer Email Address:** Click or tap here to enter text.
3. **Project Director/ Manager Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.
4. **Project Director/Manger Email Address:** Click or tap here to enter text.
5. **Project Director/Manager Phone Number:** Click or tap here to enter text.
6. **Organization Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.
7. **Organization Address:** Click or tap here to enter text.
8. **State:** Click or tap here to enter text.
9. **Zip code:** Click or tap here to enter text.
10. **How would you categorize your organization?**

Choose an item.

1. **What is your organization’s Unique Entity ID?** *(Note: Unique Entity ID is used to identify your organization on* [*SAM.gov*](https://sam.gov/content/home) *(replaced the DUNS #)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Organization Description:** Provide a brief description of your organization and overall mission.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** How does your organization incorporate the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion in operations? For example, how do you incorporate the perspectives of the population served in program design and delivery?

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **How many people does your organization employ?**

Choose an item.

1. **How many years has your organization operated?**

Choose an item.

1. **Has your organization previously received funding from Cook County Health?**

Choose an item.

1. **Has your organization previously received funding from another government entity?** Previous government funding is not a requirement.

Choose an item.

1. **Your organization agrees to provide monthly or quarterly project reports, including financials and metrics (listed in Open Call Full Details), pursuant to funding source requirements and as developed by CCH.**

Choose an item.

1. **Your organization agrees to engage with technical assistance provider(s) in technical assistance (e.g., webinars, trainings, and coaching) aligned with each strategy chosen.**

Choose an item.

1. **Your organization agrees to work towards sustaining proposed programs/services after the grant period ends.**

Choose an item.

**Application Form Continues in Next Section**

# Section B: Organizational Capacity

1. **Organization Experience:** Describe your organizational strengths, experiences, and partnerships as it relates to both the community(ies) you are proposing to serve and the work you are proposing to accomplish.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Similar Projects:** Has your organization previously executed similar projects (whether with Cook County or other funding)?   
   Click or tap here to enter text.
2. **Similar Projects (continued):** If you answered yes to the previous question, please describe the project(s) previously completed and outcome(s). If you answered no to the previous question, please briefly explain how you will successfully administer this program and execute the proposed project.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Subcontracting, Teaming, or Partnerships:** Does your application propose to subcontract and/or collaborate with one or more organizations for this project?

Choose an item.

1. **Subcontracting, Teaming, or Partnerships (continued):** If you answered yes to the previous question, please identify each organization and their specific role in the proposed project. Describe how your organization will coordinate services to ensure clients are linked to needed services that are provided by other organizations.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Application Form Continues in Next Section**

# Section C: Project Overview and Key Application Priorities

**The Stronger Together Strategies are listed below. Please refer to the Strategy descriptions, eligibility criteria, and estimated funding in responding to the questions in this section.**

1. ***Prevention and Early Intervention - Youth & Family - Meeting the Behavioral Health and Health -Related Social Needs of Students and Families Inside and Outside of School***

**Description:** Schools and communities provide critical settings where youth can receive behavioral health and health-related social needs resources to support their social and emotional development. Funding will support the development, maintenance, or expansion of existing programs and services to promote early intervention, wraparound services, and trauma-informed care, and/or address health-related social needs. This may include but are not limited to programs and services in schools, health centers, and community-based organizations that increase the availability and access to screening tools and assessments, coordinated referral and care, prevention, treatment and supports including, community-based treatment, group therapy, and counseling options, and/or initiatives that address upstream drivers of behavioral health and community trauma, including housing, transportation, and other wrap-around services for youth and families.

## Eligible Applicants:

* Community Health Center
* Community-based Organization
* Education Agency
* Faith-based Organization
* Federally Qualified Health Center

## Estimated Funding:

* Track 1: up to $500,000
* Track 2: up to $1,000,000

1. ***Early Intervention - Adults & Older Adults - Improving Screening and Integrated Care***

**Description:** Primary care and other nontraditional behavioral healthcare settings have implemented the use brief screening tools to support the identification of mental health and substance use disorder symptoms and risk factors. Evidence supports that screening and early intervention approaches are effective ways to manage behavioral health concerns and improve the overall healthcare experience of individuals and families. Community health centers, behavioral health centers, and other healthcare providers are essential to identify behavioral health concerns and initiate treatment for adults and older adults. Funding will support the development, maintenance, or expansion of existing programs and services that improve access and overall effectiveness of coordinated screening and early intervention care for adults and older adults with mild to moderate acuity and/or substance use disorder services. This may include but are not limited to programs and services that increase the availability and access to coordinated, and collaborative early intervention care, trauma-informed, support, and wrap-around services.

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## Estimated Funding:

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* Track 2: up to $1,000,000

1. ***Treatment, Recovery, and Support Services - Youth & Family - Increasing Access and Coordinated Care***

**Description:** The demand for mental health and substance use services for youth and families has significantly increased in recent years in Cook County. Both locally and nationally, there has been significant increases in the number of youth experiencing moderate to severe anxiety and depression, mental health emergencies, and suicide. While gaps in access to mental health and substance use treatment, recovery, and support services persist across the socioeconomic status, there are significant disparities for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) youth, LGBTQIA+ youth, and limited-English proficient youth and families. Funding will support the development, maintenance, or expansion of existing programs and services that increase access to a full continuum of prevention, treatment, and recovery services for youth and families. This may include but are not limited to programs and services that provide coordinated, trauma-informed, culturally humbled, linguistically responsive behavioral health and substance use programs that meet youth and families where they are at both in the schools and the community.

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## Estimated Funding:

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1. ***Treatment, Recovery, and Support Services - Adults & Older Adults - Increasing Access and Coordinated Care***

**Description:** The demand for mental health and substance use services for adults and older adults is at an all-time high. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 1 in 5 people aged 12 or older used illicit drugs in the past year, 1 in 5 adults aged 18 or older have any mental illness, and less than half of those with mental illness received help for their disorders. Funding will support the development, maintenance, or expansion of existing programs and services that increase access and coordination to a full continuum of trauma-informed, culturally competent, linguistically responsive prevention, treatment, and recovery services of adults and older adults. This may include but are not limited to programs and services that provide behavioral health and substance use treatment, support, and recovery programs such as team-based care, harm reduction, community-based peer support services.

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1. ***Crisis Care: Increasing Community Awareness and Engagement and Aligning Mobile Crisis Response***

**Description:** When someone is experiencing a mental health crisis, there are several access points, such as 988, 911, text lines, and warm or care lines. When a crisis cannot be resolved over the phone, a mobile crisis team must be dispatched to provide community-based intervention to the individual in need wherever they are, such as their home or place of work. Mobile Crisis Teams provide further assessment to the person in need and treatment and/or connection to care. For these services to meet their full potential, we must increase our communities' awareness and engagement and enhance alignment. Funding will support the development, maintenance, or expansion of existing programs and services that increase communities’ awareness and engagement with someone to call and someone to respond and increase access and coordination of care to provide the right response to the person in need. This may include but are not limited to programs and services that decrease cultural shame and stigma, increase awareness and buy in from the community on community-based crisis access points, and availability of services with age-appropriate assessment and treatment following call or text.

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1. ***Crisis Care: Somewhere to Go - Youth and Family - Moving from Emergency Department to Living Rooms, In Home Stabilization, and Crisis Stabilization Units***

**Description:** Youth require developmentally appropriate behavioral health crisis care. As a result, there are often considerable gaps in the capacity to serve youth and families. Too often, youth experiencing behavioral health crisis face hospitalization or justice system involvement, instead of the home and community-based services they need to de-escalate and stabilize. This is especially true for youth populations that have experienced high unmet behavioral health needs, including BIPOC youth, LGBTQIA+ youth, and limited-English proficient youth. Funding will support the development, maintenance, or expansion of existing age-appropriates programs and services that increase community awareness and engagement among youth and families. This may include but are not limited to programs and services that expand access to developmentally appropriate assessment, sensitive de-escalation supports, safety planning, somewhere to go, and connection to on-going care where it is needed.

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1. ***Crisis Care: Somewhere to Go - Adults & Older Adults - Moving from Emergency Departments to Living Rooms, In Home Stabilization, Crisis Stabilization Units, and Sobering Centers***

**Description:** Behavioral health crisis systems are evolving to become more sophisticated and diverse as localities invest in addressing issues such as emergency department boarding, unnecessary law enforcement involvement in responses to non-criminal health care crises, and inadequate and inequitable access to services. The goals of crisis systems often include providing rapid access to care for individuals experiencing mental health challenges, with the aim of alleviating distress as quickly, safely, and effectively as possible. Living rooms, in home stabilization, crisis stabilization units, and sobering centers can provide a safe and therapeutic alternative to hospital emergency departments, inpatient psychiatric units, and jails, and offer a no-wrong-door access to mental health and substance use care. Funding will support the development, maintenance, or expansion of existing programs and services that move crisis care from emergency departments to safe and appropriate place to go. This may include but are not limited to programs and services that expand access to living rooms, in home stabilization, crisis stabilization units and sobering centers.

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1. **Program/Project Title:** Please write the name of your program/service title:

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Selected Strategy: Select which strategy you are applying for. You may only select one.

Choose an item.

1. **Funding Track:** Select which funding track you are applying for. The funding amounts listed are total through the project lifetime, not per year.

Choose an item.

## Funding Proposal Description: Describe your organization's reason for applying for this funding opportunity, what need(s) related to the strategy selected you would address in the communities selected, your proposed plan to address these need(s), and how the need(s) and your proposed work are community informed. Please justify the need(s) you identify and your proposed solution(s) with data and/or published literature.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Priority Populations Reached:** Select which priority population(s) you will engage and impact through the strategy selected above. **Select all that apply.**

Racial and ethnic minorities, African American, Hispanic/Latinx, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color

Persons adversely impacted by persistent poverty or inequality

Individuals who are educationally disadvantaged

Immigrants, refugees, and undocumented individuals

Individuals who are housing insecure

Older persons (65 and older), especially those with chronic conditions

Individuals with disabilities

Individuals with limited or no English proficiency

Low income or low wage workers

Individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, or have limited healthcare access

Individuals with behavioral health challenges

Individuals who are justice-involved

Individuals with low technical literacy

Sexual and gender minorities

Youth, especially those who are economically disadvantaged

Individuals experiencing trauma, violence, and/or abuse

Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Priority Populations Reached:** Select which priority population(s) you will engage and impact through the strategy selected above. **Select all that apply and describe % effort.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | Blue Island  Bridgeview  Calumet City  Cicero  Chicago Heights  Chicago Lawn | Dolton  Gage Park  Harvey  Hodgkins  Maywood  Melrose Park | Northlake  Riverdale  Robbins  South Chicago Heights  Summit | * **% time effort:** * Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **B** | * Armour Square * Auburn Gresham * Austin * Bellwood * Belmont * Bensenville * Berwyn * Burnside * Brighton Park * Calumet Park * Craigan * Dixmoor * Elgin | * East Garfield Park * Englewood * Franklin Park * Fuller Park * Greater Grand Crossing * Hillside * Humboldt Park * Justice * Montclare * New City * Niles * North Lawndale | * Rogers Park * Sauk Village * South Deering * South Lawndale * South Shore * Washington Park * West Englewood * West Garfield Park * West Ridge * Woodlawn | **% time effort:**  Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **C** | * Albany Park * Archer Heights * Avalon Park * Burbank * Chatham * Chicago Ridge * Crestwood * Des Plaines * Douglas   East Side   * Grand Boulevard | * Hanover Park * Hazel Crest * Hegewisch * Hermosa * Lower West Side * Markham * McKinley Park * North Park * Oakland * Oak Lawn * Park Forest | * Phoenix * Prospect Heights * Roseland * South Chicago * Stone Park * West Elsdon * West Lawn * West Pullman * Wheeling | * **% time effort:** * Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **D** | * Other – Please list: * Click or tap here to enter text. | | | **% time effort:**  Click or tap here to enter text. |

**This is the End of the Application Form.**

**REMEMBER – Applications Must Also Include Completed Work Plan and Budget Narrative. Please Include All Three Documents When Submitting Your Application.**