

Mental Health Referendum

Mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse affect a significant number of people in our community. In Vernon Township, mental illness issues alone conservatively cost **\$719** per capita or **\$110,000,000** per year. *

1 What is the problem?



1 in 5 adults experiences a mental illness in a given year.



1 in 6 children have a developmental disability such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, Down's syndrome, or other neurological conditions.



1 in 5 youth aged 13-18 experiences a severe mental health disorder at some point during their life.

1 in 10

youth aged 12 and older have used an illicit drug such as heroin, cocaine or marijuana in the last month.

2 What will passing this referendum mean to you and your family?



Ability to act quickly when families are in crisis.



Comprehensive local support of services targeted to the needs of the local community to ensure that preventative and therapeutic programs are streamlined, accessible, and affordable for all residents in the Township.



Reduce or eliminate gaps in service such as long waiting lists or arbitrary cut-off limits.



Screening for prevention and early detection.



And...the State of Illinois is ranked 35th among all states in spending on mental health and 43rd in spending for developmental disabilities.

3 What you can do?

In November of 2022, we have an opportunity to support a small property tax increase to establish a Community Mental Health Board that would ensure that all residents of Vernon Township have equal access to a high quality, comprehensive care delivery system for people affected by mental illness, addiction, or developmental disabilities.

In Illinois, Community Mental Health Boards are created by a referendum approved by the voters. The volunteer Board consisting of 7-9 local residents with a vested interest in the community would be appointed by the Vernon Township Supervisor.

4 What does it cost?

Under Illinois law, Vernon Township is requesting 0.037%. The actual tax levy may be less based on community need, but it will never be more. Raising the rate would require another referendum. At this rate, with current assessed values, we would raise \$1.46 million for these vital services and the average priced home would pay only \$49.99 annually.

Shall Vernon Township levy an annual tax not to exceed .037% for the purpose of providing community mental health facilities and services including facilities and services for the person with a developmental disability or a substance use disorder?



*SAMSHA Projections of Expenditures for Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders 2010-2020.

For more information, find us on Facebook: Mental Health Board for Vernon Township

www.AdvocateFor708.org



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