



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shelter, Inc. Awarded Behavioral Health Grant from Cook County Health

Arlington Heights, IL - Shelter, Inc. is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a grant from Cook County Health's Stronger Together: Building a More Equitable Behavioral Health System in Cook County Initiative.

Shelter, Inc. was awarded \$273,146.87 to support the expansion of its clinical program into underserved communities in the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago. "Shelter is grateful to receive the Behavioral Health Initiative funding," says Shelter's executive director Carina H. Santa Maria, "as it will allow us to expand our clinical services beyond the walls of our program to provide critical mental healthcare services through local schools to youth who have experienced trauma or are in crisis."

Shelter's clinical team will help address the dire need for youth mental health services that is much greater than current school staff can address.

The [Stronger Together 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.

Fifty-three organizations were selected, with applicants that serve communities that score the highest on the Social-Vulnerability Index receiving priority. This initiative, led by the Office of Behavioral Health at [Cook County Health](#) (CCH) is supported by funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury, under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocated to CCH by [Cook County Government](#).

"This initiative highlights how government and other sectors of our community can work together to benefit the greater good," Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said. "This is a historic opportunity to make meaningful change in Cook County for generations."

(cont.)

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Founded in 1975, Shelter, Inc. is a leader in Chicagoland for providing emotional and physical care, programs, and services that children need to build safer, healthier, and brighter futures. Shelter Inc. is the only agency in Illinois to provide comprehensive and community-based services for children and families at risk and in need. Programs include emergency housing, transitional living, foster care, home visiting and clinical support services. Learn more at www.shelter-inc.org.

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About Cook County Health

One of the largest public health systems in the nation, Cook County Health (CCH) serves as the safety-net for health care in Chicago and suburban Cook County. CCH is comprised of two hospitals, a robust network of more than a dozen community health centers, the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, the Cook County Department of Public Health, Correctional Health Services, which provides health care to individuals at the Cook County Jail and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, and CountyCare, a Medicaid managed care health plan. Through the health system and the health plan, CCH cares for more than 500,000 individuals each year, and its physicians are experts in their fields, committed to providing their patients with comprehensive, compassionate and cutting-edge care. Today, CCH is transforming the provision of health care in Cook County by promoting community-based primary and preventive care, growing an innovative, collaborative health plan, and enhancing the patient experience.

About Cook County Government

Cook County is the second largest county in the United States representing 5.2 million residents in Illinois. The President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners is the chief executive officer (CEO) of Cook County and oversees the Offices Under the President and presides as president of the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

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