

Mental Health Referendum for a Caring Community

Mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse affect a significant number of people in our community. In Elgin, mental illness issues alone conservatively costs \$550 per capita or \$62,000,000 per year.

1 What is the problem?

Everyone knows someone impacted by mental illness, addiction, or developmental disabilities.



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 syndrome, or other neurological conditions



1 in 5 youth aged 13-18 experiences a severe mental 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 past month.

National stats from NAMI and CDC:
NUMBERS ARE APPROXIMATE

2 What will it mean to you and your family?



Ability to act quickly when families are in crisis



Comprehensive local support services targeted to the needs of the local community to insure that preventive 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 **44th** in spending for developmental disabilities.

3 What can you do?

On March 17, 2020, 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 Elgin 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 7-9 local residents with a vested interest in the community would be appointed by the Elgin Supervisor.

4 What does it cost?

Under Illinois law, the maximum property tax rate increase for this Board is 0.15% of the property's current assessed value. The actual rate may be significantly less based on community needs ... but never more than 0.15%.

Shall Elgin establish and maintain community mental health facilities and services including services for the person with a developmental disability or substance disorder and levy therefore an annual tax of not to exceed .15%



Elgin's median assessed value is \$55,494, so at a 0.15% levy that would be \$83.24 per year. **(\$55,494 x .0015)**
That's a mere \$1.60 per week to help your fellow community members get back to a productive and healthy life.

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