York Township Community Mental Health Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

York Township Community Mental Health Board Awards Mental Health Grant to DuPage High School District 88

New Intergovernmental Agreement strengthens partnership to expand student mental health support and services

YORK TOWNSHIP, Ill. (November 16, 2026) — The York Township Community Mental Health Board (708 Board) is pleased to announce the awarding of a mental health grant to DuPage High School District 88 to support student mental health programming. The grant award, presented on Monday, November 16, 2026, represents an important step in the Board's commitment to expanding access to mental health resources for young people and families throughout York Township.

In addition to the grant award, the York Township Community Mental Health Board and DuPage High School District 88 entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), establishing a formal partnership to support student mental health and strengthen collaboration between local government and public education.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to recognizing the importance of mental health in student success, promoting early intervention, and helping ensure that young people have access to the support and resources they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

"Supporting the mental health of our young people is one of the most meaningful investments we can make in the future of our community," said **Michael Ledonne, President of the York Township Community Mental Health Board.** "Through this grant and our partnership with District 88, we are putting our mission into action by working collaboratively to strengthen mental health resources for students and families. We

recognize that addressing mental health needs early can make a lasting difference in a young person's life."

"We know that students are better positioned to succeed academically and personally when they feel supported, connected, and emotionally healthy," said **Dr. Jean Barbanente, Superintendent of DuPage High School District 88.** "This partnership with the York Township Community Mental Health Board allows us to strengthen the resources available to our students and reinforce our commitment to supporting the whole child. We are grateful for this investment in our students and for the opportunity to work together to make a meaningful difference in their lives."

The grant award is part of the Board's broader efforts to invest in community-based programs that improve access to care, encourage early intervention, and address the evolving mental health needs of York Township residents.

Established following the voter-approved referendum in November 2024, the York Township Community Mental Health Board is dedicated to building a stronger, more coordinated network of mental health, developmental disability, and substance use services. Partnerships with community institutions, including local school districts, play an important role in advancing that mission.

The collaboration with DuPage High School District 88 demonstrates how public entities can work together to address community needs, leverage local resources, and create meaningful opportunities to improve the health and well-being of residents.

"This is about more than awarding a grant. It's about building partnerships that make a difference," added Ledonne. "By working together, we can help create a community where mental health is a priority and where students and families know that support is available."

The York Township Community Mental Health Board looks forward to continuing its collaboration with District 88 and other community partners to expand access to essential behavioral health services throughout the township.

For more information about the York Township Community Mental Health Board, visit:

https://yorktwsp.com/supervisor-home/708-mental-health-board/

About the York Township Community Mental Health Board

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The York Township Community Mental Health Board is a local governmental body established under Illinois' Community Mental Health Act to support mental health, developmental disability, and substance use services for York Township residents. Funded through a voter-approved property tax, the Board identifies community needs, develops strategic plans, and provides funding to qualified local agencies that deliver essential services. Through collaboration, responsible stewardship, and community engagement, the Board works to improve access to care, promote early intervention, and enhance the quality of life for individuals and families throughout York Township.

Media Contact

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Pictured (left to right): Michael Ledonne, President of the York Township Community Mental Health Board; Dr. Daniel Krause, Principal of Willowbrook High School; Donna Craft Cain, President of the DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education; and Dr. Jean Barbanente, Superintendent of DuPage High School District 88, during the November 16, 2026, grant presentation recognizing the new partnership to support student mental health.