

Southwest Behavioral Health:**\$10,000,000**

The City of Evansville is pleased to propose to the City Council utilizing \$10 million of its American Rescue Plan allocation to allow Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare to expand facilities and create new mental health services never before available in our community. These concepts were developed in consultation with mental health service providers and community leaders from around the region.

Each year millions of Americans with mental illness struggle to find mental health care. It's estimated that nearly half of the 60 million adults and children living with mental health conditions in the United States go without any treatment. People lack the same access to mental health providers as they have for other medical providers.

The city's partnership with Southwest will help renovate two existing building to create **1) a new 20-bed adult residential treatment center, and 2) a new child and family services neurodevelopmental psychiatry specialty center.**

The 20-bed treatment center will be a co-ed facility for adults needing short term residential treatment (28-35 days) following hospitalization or crisis. The location for this much needed service is on property owned by Southwest at 414 SE Fourth Street.

The new children and family service will allow for children and adolescents with dual diagnosis to have a local treatment option. Work is still being done to finalize the exact location of this facility, but it is likely to be housed in an existing vacant building. We are working with other mental health service providers to relocate to this facility so that they can partner with Southwest to create an unprecedented level of professional collaboration.

Southwest's initial renovation estimates are \$6,000,000 for the residential treatment facility and \$4,000,000 for the children and family treatment center.

United Caring Services**\$300,000**

The City of Evansville is partnering with United Caring Services, one of the region's largest homeless shelters, to create a six-bed 23-hour facility for people experiencing substance use and/or a co-occurring mental health crisis.

This facility will provide front-line intervention in order to divert people away from unnecessary emergency department, emergency medical services, or the criminal justice system use toward the help, support, and recovery they need.

Conservatively, UCS anticipates serving 250 people each year for an estimated cost avoidance of \$4.5 million (hospital emergency rooms, jail, etc.). The specific protocols of operation have been developed in consultation with Deaconess, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville, Southwest Indiana Behavioral Healthcare, American Medical Response, and other interested stakeholders

The buildout to house this facility is complete and is located at United Caring Services at 324 NW 6th Street.

The estimated annual operating expenses for four days of operation is \$341,000; for seven days per week of service, the annual operating expenses are estimated to be \$487,000. The Administration will seek the same appropriation in 2023, for a total of \$600,000.

Easterseals

\$150,000

The City of Evansville also recognizes Easterseals as a community partner in providing mental health services. The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center has developed a Doctoral level Internship for Clinical Psychologists and a post-doctorate Fellowship for psychologists who have just completed their doctoral degrees.

This offering will allow Interns and Fellows to conduct psychological testing and counseling, regardless of clients' ability to pay. This expands Easterseals' Psychology services capacity by about four times —from 1,000 patient visits annually to approximately 4,000 patient visits annually (in August 2021 their program provided services to 191 children. 30 were new clients and 21 received psychological testing).

The long-term impact of this program is equally importantly. We need more providers serving our children. Offering this program in Evansville draws providers from around the country, increasing the likelihood they will stay and build a practice in our region, increasing the number of available providers and their capacity to serve individuals and families, and transforming the landscape of accessibility to high level mental health services.

Long term sustainability is vital because Easterseals provides services regardless of ability to pay and does not limit Medicaid clients. Prior to starting the program in 2019, \$150,000-\$180,000 of underwriting was required per year. In 2022, Easterseals is projecting to underwrite these services at a level of over \$400,000. Increased underwriting is provided through annual fundraising, which is not sustainable, therefore a Board Controlled Endowment is needed to provide ongoing underwriting and ensure sustainability. The Board has established a sustainability campaign goal of \$10 million. The Administration will seek the same appropriation in 2023, for a total of \$300,000.

SWIRCA & More

\$500,000

The City proposes investing in SWIRCA & More, the region's preeminent organization focusing on enhancing quality of life and independent living for those who are aging, people living with disabilities and caregivers. With our senior population growing at a rapid rate, seniors are going to outpace SWIRCA's existing services 3 to 1 in the next four years. SWIRCA's current building is at full capacity with no available room for growth in critical services or to house additional programmatic staff. If SWIRCA is to continue to provide excellent services to those in need, they must expand their physical facilities to provide the capacity it takes to deliver our top-quality services and introduce new state-of-the-art programming. Many of their current working spaces have far outlived their useful lives but could be creatively reconfigured for new uses.

After careful review and study, SWIRCA has determined that it will take an additional 16,000 square feet of space requiring an investment of \$5 million to create the infrastructure needed to have any chance of maintaining pace with this increasing demand for services. SWIRCA is centrally located 16 West Virginia Street, and is an anchor in the advancement of the Jacobsville neighborhood. With careful use of space

and an efficient design, they expect to see the following results:

- 24,000 additional meals served each year through their Meals on Wheels program
- 40% increase in attendance at certified exercise and education programs in their Activity and Wellness Center
- 25% increase in calls for assistance and essential services handled by their ADRC each month
- 1,000 new individuals receiving confidential support from their options counseling staff.

This represents a single appropriation request toward their capital campaign.

Affordable Housing

\$5,000,000

The City of Evansville is pleased increase funding to its Affordable Housing Trust Fund in order to help create additional affordable living units within the city.

There is an estimated gap of 1,500 units between the number of heavy cost-burdened renters (a household paying more than 50% of its monthly income on housing. HUD's target is 30% for households cost for housing, including utilities) in Evansville and the number of low-cost affordable units available. Our housing needs assessment/analysis of impediments to fair housing choice, shows this gap. Tax credit development, which is heavily dependent on Promise Zone points, has created nearly 500 affordable units in the last 6 years. The average cost to create an affordable unit is roughly \$220,000 at this time. We receive approximately \$600,000 in federal HOME Investment Partnership funds each year and for the last few years \$500,000 has been placed in the Housing Trust fund.

These federal funds come with cross-cutting regulations that may make them difficult to put into every project, however the availability of additional funding is a key to creating additional living units.

The Administration will seek the same appropriation in 2023, for a total of \$10,000,000.

Talent 2025

\$1,200,000

The City of Evansville is pleased to collaborate with the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership on Talent 2025, a regional initiative to increase our population and improve our talent base.

We want our workforce to be prepared for jobs and careers of the future. We want a resilient economy that can bounce back after routine downturns, or a major crisis like COVID-19. We want to ensure equitable opportunity for every family regardless of race, history or circumstance. We have to improve quality of place for a healthier, more fulfilling lifestyle.

E-REP is committed to specific goals for the community over the next five years. They are:

- Being deliberate about bringing 5,000 high-paying new job opportunities to our region that build on our strong manufacturing history and secure its future.
- Increase our population by 10,000 residents, half of whom are in the early stage of their careers.

- Produce a highly trained workforce that is globally competitive and relevant.
- Reduce the percentage of households living in poverty.
- Get healthier – improve the quality and quantity of our residents’ lives.

The funding provided by the City of Evansville is one of many sources that will be applied to initiatives to meet these goals. Specifically, the city’s grant will be utilized to:

- Develop a smart manufacturing cluster to aggressively grow the sector.
- Develop a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategy to connect employers with MBE and WBE suppliers, and raise the visibility of minority leaders’ role in the region.
- Produce a unified regional marketing plan that will be used to collect regional data and precisely target market to prospective talent and to retain existing talent.
- Convert those in charity tracker and displaced and underemployed residents into higher skilled, higher paying jobs.

This represents a single appropriation request toward Talent 2025.