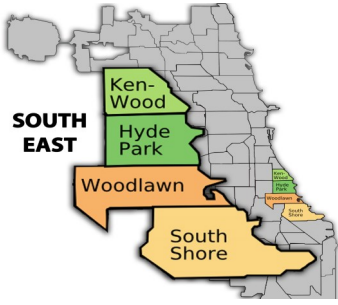


The Southeast Mental Health Booster

Serving the neighborhoods of Kenwood, Hyde Park, Woodlawn, and South Shore



Vote YES for Mental Health! Vote YES for Our Community!

On November 8, 2022, voters in Kenwood, Hyde Park, Woodlawn, and South Shore will have the opportunity to create a new community mental health center by voting on two binding referenda.

Following decades of city mental health center closures, this year's ballots would make Chicago history by allowing the creation of two new Expanded Mental Health Services Program (EMHSP) one on the Southeast side of Chicago (including the neighborhoods of Kenwood, Hyde Park, Woodlawn, and South Shore) and one in West Town-Humboldt Park. Each area will have its own set of two binding referenda which each community area will vote on.

The two referenda ask whether voters are willing to raise their own property tax by a nominal amount (roughly \$16-\$24 per year) to restore lasting mental health services to the community. If approved, these funds will be used to provide services for children and families, seniors, veterans, those with mood and anxiety

disorders, crisis and prevention services, and anything else deemed essential by the residents of Kenwood, Hyde Park, Woodlawn, and South Shore. The center would also serve any resident of these neighborhoods regardless of ability to pay.

This property tax increase is unique because every dollar is guaranteed by State law to stay in the community. The proposed 0.025% increase amounts to about \$4 for every \$1,000 homeowners currently pay in property taxes.

“Our mission is to shine the light on mental health in the Southeast community!” said Southeast resident and Community Action Team (C.A.T) member Jeannette E. Jones.

Join us with your support in creating a new mental health center for our community by voting “YES” on both referenda questions on **November 8th**.



Southeast residents and advocacy team members gathered 8,982 signatures from registered voters to place the necessary referendum questions on the ballot.



Southeast Residents Submit Signatures to Expand Mental Health Services



Southeast Community Action Team (C.A.T) and the WTHP advocacy team holds press conference for the submission of signatures at the Chicago Board of Elections.

On Friday, August 5, residents submitted 8,982 signatures of registered voters in the Southeast area to place the two necessary referenda questions on the ballot. The first question creates the EMHSP while the second provides additional protection for the taxpayers against excessive annual increases in the total levy they have approved for the first year.

The Coalition to Save Our Mental Health Center's Community Action Team had spent the previous twelve weeks engaging neighbors, religious groups, schools, and local nonprofits in a discussion about mental health and gathering signatures. The group held a press conference outside the Chicago Board of Elections, during which four leaders

made statements addressing the undeniable need for mental health services and what the creation of a Southeast EMHSP would mean for the community.

“Mental Health is a human right so opening a new mental health center for our community is an absolute must! We see the adverse affects from the closing of prior clinics and the definite need since the pandemic. So we're advocating for something that'll help people regain their mental capacity in this present culture.” said Southeast resident and Community Action Team (C.A.T) member Darlene Lewis.

November 8, 2022 Sample Ballots

Two referenda will appear on your November 8th ballot. Vote YES on both questions to expand mental health services in our communities!

To the voters of the Southeast Expanded Mental Health Services Program Area:

Shall there be established, to serve the territory commonly described on this ballot or notice of this question, a Southeast Expanded Mental Health Services Program, to provide direct free mental health services for any resident of the territory who needs assistance in overcoming or coping with mental or emotional disorders, where such program will be funded through an increase of not more than .025% of the equalized assessed valuation of all properties within the boundaries of the territory?

YES

To the voters of the Southeast Expanded Mental Health Services Program Area:

Under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, may an aggregate extension not to exceed \$650,000 be made for the Southeast Expanded Mental Health Services Program for the 2023 levy year?

YES

Editorial: Voices from Our Community

For many of us living in Kenwood, Hyde Park, Woodlawn and South Shore, the need for mental health services is a stark one. We have watched our neighbors quietly struggle as the city’s dwindling commitment to mental health ultimately led to the closure of the mental health centers in our neighborhoods. Our community is still dealing with the long term effects of Covid. Car jackings have increased, gun violence continues to rise causing residents to be traumatized and fearful of just walking down the street. Due to the lack of mental health services in our communities, residents don’t have a place to go to address these and other issues.

This November, we have the chance to provide that safe place!

Over the course of the summer, residents of our community initiated the creation of the Southeast Expanded Mental Health Services Program. Such programs are authorized by the 2011 state law entitled the Community Expanded Mental Health Services Act. This law allows Chicago communities to join together by placing two referenda on the ballot and letting voters decide if they want more mental health services.

The referenda on the November 8th ballot empower us to bring mental health services

back to meet our community’s ever-present need if we are willing to approve a small property tax increase to pay for it.

The increase is 0.025%, which is approximately \$4 for every thousand you currently pay in property taxes or an estimated \$16-\$24 per household each year. The state law both ensures every penny of this revenue will go towards providing mental health services for our community and protects taxpayers by never increasing the rate beyond what is approved by the voters.

Services at our new center will be available to anyone who lives in Kenwood, Hyde Park, Woodlawn and South Shore regardless of their ability to pay. These services will also be tailored to the specific needs of our community.

Our neighbors have spoken through the 8,982 signatures gathered to place this referendum on the ballot. On November 8th, we will be given the opportunity to speak again!

Our new center will be created by us, funded by us, and overseen by us. We are stronger together!

Vote YES to both referenda on November 8th!

What does .025% mean to me?

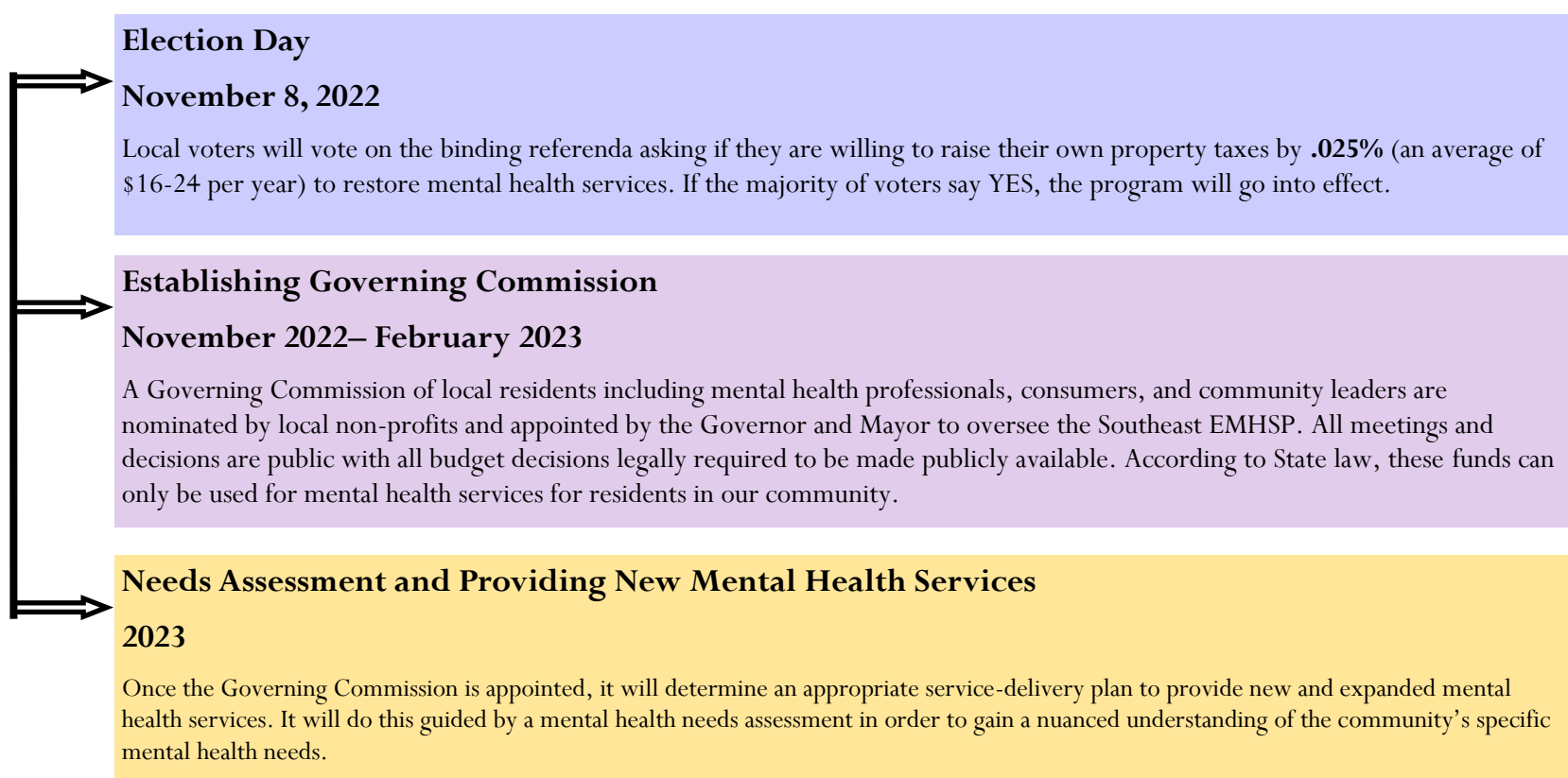
A \$4 increase for every \$1000 you currently pay in property taxes is equivalent to the price of one latte

Property Tax Bill	Lattes Per Year	Cost
\$4,000	4 lattes	\$16
\$6,000	6 lattes	\$24
\$8,000	8 lattes	\$32



Southeast resident Jennifer Cohen speaking with residents at the Woodlawn 63rd Street Farmers Market.

Southeast Timeline 2022 - 2023



Listed below are some of the many possible services:

- | | | | |
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| School Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Outreach • Diagnostic Assistance • Bullying Prevention • Trauma Training for Teachers | Prevention/Early Intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services aimed at helping people before they become disabled or referred to hospitals • Parent-child groups | Everyday Stressors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services for residents experiencing stressors such as rising rent prices, displacement, and immigration | Other Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors and veterans • Prisoner re-entry • Mood/anxiety disorders • Domestic Violence |
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The Coalition is pleased to acknowledge the support from The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Crossroads Fund, Michael Reese Health Trust, Smart Family Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, and the generous support from the many individuals who attended the Coalition’s annual Building Resilient Communities Fundraiser.

COALITION TO SAVE Our Mental Health Centers

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