



Thomas P. McNamara, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council
Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Todd Cagnoni, City Administrator
Jennifer Cacciapaglia, Mayor's Office of Domestic and Community Violence Prevention

RE: Proposed funding agreement with Comprehensive Community Solutions (CCS) to expand prevention and intervention programming in collaboration with the City of Rockford's Community Healing Center.

DATE: June 8, 2026

For your consideration, is a proposed funding agreement with Comprehensive Community Solutions (CCS) to expand prevention and intervention programming in collaboration with the City of Rockford's Community Healing Center utilizing Cannabis Funds in the amount of \$400,000.

Comprehensive Community Solutions, Inc. (CCS) Alive & Free Program is a year-round, trauma-informed youth development and violence prevention initiative serving youth throughout Rockford, Illinois, particularly within the city's most economically distressed and violence-impacted neighborhoods. Alive & Free utilizes a holistic framework that integrates mentoring, emotional intelligence development, restorative practices, violence prevention, leadership development, conflict resolution, career awareness, and service learning.

The program has demonstrated measurable and significant outcomes during the 2025-2026 fiscal year with a 20% increase in math performance, a 3% increase in school attendance, and a 50% reduction in school referrals at McIntosh Elementary and Guilford High School.

Attached to this memo is a detailed explanation of the program, the approach and outcomes.

To sustain and expand these critical services, CCS respectfully requests \$400,000 in funding support from the City of Rockford that will be matched by an additional \$100,000 in matching funds provided through The Winnebago County Mental Health Board (WCMHB). This funding will allow Alive & Free to continue serving approximately 100 youth annually through trauma-informed mentoring, behavioral health support, social-emotional learning, violence prevention programming, case management, restorative practices, therapeutic services, and family stabilization supports.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed funding agreement as the request is consistent with City's efforts for community investment. Please let me know should you have any questions.