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## Memorandum

To: Finance and Personnel Committee

From: Todd Cagnoni, City Administrator  
Jennifer Cacciapaglia, MODCVP  
Diana Hernandez, Children Exposed to Violence Project Manager.

Re: Allocation of funding for Community Healing Center, trauma-informed services to youth impacted by violence in Rockford.

Date: June 8, 2026

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The Community Healing Center was established through the Mayor's Office of Domestic and Community Violence Prevention through federal grant funding that is scheduled to end as of September 2026. To sustain the program through September 2027, we are requesting an allocation of funding in the amount of \$353,502.76 for the Community Healing Center. We will continue to seek grant funding to offset costs.

The Community Healing Center provides trauma-informed services to youth impacted by violence in Rockford. Core services include service navigation and case coordination, mentorship and youth engagement, mental health referrals, human trafficking prevention initiatives, school-based support, and leadership development through the Youth Advocacy Board. The program prioritizes youth at highest risk of violence exposure, school disengagement, and justice system involvement, offering consistent, relationship-based support.

The Community Healing Center serves youth under the age of 17 who have been impacted by violence, trauma, and high-stress environments. Many youths served are at increased risk of school disengagement, justice system involvement, or exposure to community violence. The program prioritizes youth from underserved communities and those with limited access to consistent support systems.

The team has outstanding success and outcomes that are identified in the attached report prepared by Diana Hernandez, Children Exposed to Violence Project Manager.

Staff recommends funding in the amount of \$353,502.76 for Community Healing Center, trauma-informed services to youth impacted by violence in Rockford. The funding source is reallocated ARPA dollars from Excel Center and Corridor Signage.

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

By: Alderman Kevin Frost, Chairman  
On Behalf of the Finance & Personnel Committee

WHEREAS, the City has available funds as a result of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) funding to the benefit of the community and is allocating \$353,502.76 for the Community Healing Center; and

WHEREAS, The Community Healing Center provides trauma-informed services to youth impacted by violence in Rockford. Core services include service navigation and case coordination, mentorship and youth engagement, mental health referrals, human trafficking prevention initiatives, school-based support, and leadership development through the Youth Advocacy Board; and

WHEREAS, The Community Healing Center serves youth under the age of 17 who have been impacted by violence, trauma, and high-stress environments. Many youths served are at increased risk of school disengagement, justice system involvement, or exposure to community violence; and

WHEREAS, The program prioritizes youth from underserved communities and those with limited access to consistent support systems, including youth at highest risk of violence exposure, school disengagement, and justice system involvement, offering consistent, relationship-based support; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS as follows:**

1. That the City of Rockford, Illinois will budget \$353,502.76 for the Community Healing Center.
2. The funding will support operation from October 1, 2026 – Sept 30, 2027.
3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Rockford, Illinois this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2026.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Rockford, Illinois this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2026.

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Thomas P. McNamara, Mayor  
City of Rockford, Illinois

ATTEST:

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Angela Hammer, Legal Director and  
*Ex Officio* Keeper of the Records and Seal of the  
City of Rockford, Illinois

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

**RECOMMENDATION FOR RESOLUTION**

**TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKFORD:**

Council Members:

The Committee on Finance and Personnel having received a request hereby begs leave to report recommending **approval** of the Allocation of funding in the amount of \$353,502.76 for the Community Healing Center to provide trauma-informed services to youth impacted by violence in Rockford. The Legal Director shall prepare the appropriate resolution.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Frost (Chair)

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Chad Tuneberg (Vice Chair)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Beach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Granath

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jaime Salgado

Committee Action Taken:

Frost:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___
Tuneberg:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___
Beach:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___
Granath:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___
Salgado:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___

**Community Healing Center**  
**Budget Forecast & Sustainability Overview**

Supporting Youth Impacted by Violence in Rockford

*FY2022 (Extension Year: Oct 1, 2025 – Sept 30, 2026)*

*FY2026 Projection (Oct 1, 2026 – Sept 30, 2027)*

City of Rockford  
Mayor's Office of Domestic and Community Violence Prevention  
April 2026

Prepared by:  
Diana Hernandez  
Children Exposed to Violence Project Manager

## **Executive Summary**

FY2022 (Extension Year): \$333,190.86

FY2026 (Projection): \$353,502.76

## **Program Summary**

The Community Healing Center provides trauma-informed services to youth impacted by violence in Rockford. Core services include service navigation and case coordination, mentorship and youth engagement, mental health referrals, human trafficking prevention initiatives, school-based support, and leadership development through the Youth Advocacy Board. The program prioritizes youth at highest risk of violence exposure, school disengagement, and justice system involvement, offering consistent, relationship-based support.

## **Key Highlights**

- Serves youth across multiple schools and high-need neighborhoods
- Provides consistent mentorship and individualized support
- Offers prevention programming, including human trafficking awareness
- Supports youth through both community-based and school-based services
- Creates leadership opportunities through the Youth Advocacy Board

## **Purpose of This Document**

This document outlines the cost to sustain current programming during the FY2026 extension year and provides a projected cost to maintain services in FY2027 in the absence of federal grant funding.

## **Program Overview & Impact**

### **Who We Serve**

The Community Healing Center serves youth under the age of 17 who have been impacted by violence, trauma, and high-stress environments. Many youth served are at increased risk of school disengagement, justice system involvement, or exposure to community violence. The program prioritizes youth from underserved communities and those with limited access to consistent support systems.

### **Program Model**

The Community Healing Center provides a comprehensive, trauma-informed model of care that includes:

- Ongoing service navigation and case coordination for youth and families
- Mentorship and youth engagement focused on goal-setting and skill development
- Connection to mental health services through trusted community partners
- School-based support services, including restorative practices and conflict resolution
- Human trafficking prevention initiatives focused on awareness and safety
- A youth drop-in space offering structured activities and safe engagement
- Leadership development opportunities through the Youth Advocacy Board

### **Service Reach:**

- 221 unduplicated youth served through intake-based services
- Approximately 320 total youth engaged across all programs and services
- 81 youth currently engaged in ongoing services
- 23 new youth intakes since January 1, 2026
- 59 referrals to community-based and therapeutic partners
- 65 youth participated in structured prevention groups

### **Community Presence:**

- Services delivered across 5 school and community sites
- 1,865 individuals reached through outreach efforts

### **Outcomes and Indicators:**

- 22 youth completed matched pre- and post-Hope Scale assessments
- 12 youth (55%) demonstrated measurable improvement in hope scores
- 27 youth completed matched pre- and post-program surveys

### **Greatest Areas of Improvement:**

- Decision-making (average 7.69% increase)
- Peaceful conflict resolution (average 4.04% increase)

## Why This Model Matters

The Community Healing Center provides both depth of service through sustained mentorship and case coordination, and broad community reach through outreach and partnerships across multiple sites. This integrated approach allows staff to build trust, respond to emerging needs, and provide continuity of care that is not typically available through single-service programs. The program intentionally builds protective factors such as decision-making, conflict resolution, and hope—key indicators linked to reduced risk-taking behavior and long-term positive outcomes for youth.

## Budget Overview

The table below outlines the cost to sustain current programming during the FY2022 extension year and projected costs for FY2026.

<b>BUDGET OVERVIEW</b>	
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>FY26 (Oct 2026-Sept 2027, (Projected))</b>
Personnel	\$150,842.13
Fringe Benefits	\$50,671.47
Program Costs (Supplies)	\$4,500
Procurement/ Contractual Costs	\$92,373.00
Other Costs	\$25,625.00
Indirect Costs (10%)	\$29,491.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$353,502.76</b>

- Personnel represents the largest portion of the budget due to direct service delivery
- Program costs include youth incentives, supplies, and prevention programming materials
- Procurement/Contractual costs support community partnerships and specialized services
- The FY2027 projection reflects the full cost to sustain current programming without federal funding

Based on current reach, the estimated annual cost per youth is approximately \$1,040.

## **Key Considerations & Sustainability**

The Community Healing Center has established a comprehensive, trauma-informed model that provides consistent support to youth impacted by violence across multiple settings. Sustaining current funding levels will allow the program to maintain staffing, partnerships, and core services that have been developed and refined over the course of the grant period.

Demand for services continues to grow, as reflected in ongoing youth engagement, new intakes, and outreach efforts across multiple neighborhoods. The program's presence in both school and community settings positions it to respond to emerging needs and provide early intervention and prevention services for youth at highest risk.

The Community Healing Center's model emphasizes relationship-based support, which relies on consistency in staffing and service delivery. Maintaining continuity of care is critical to building trust with youth and families and ensuring positive outcomes over time.

The program complements existing efforts across schools, community-based organizations, and city-led initiatives by providing coordinated support and strengthening referral pathways. This alignment reduces duplication of services and enhances overall system effectiveness.

Continued investment in the Community Healing Center will support the stability and continuity of services for youth most impacted by violence, while reinforcing the City's commitment to prevention, early intervention, and long-term community well-being.