



# HOPE Taskforce Announces Recipients of Grant Funds And New Round of Funding



Grant recipients receive their funding from DuPage County Chairman, Dan Cronin; DuPage County Health Department Executive Director, Karen Ayala; and HOPE Taskforce Co-Chairs, Greg Hart and Dr. Lanny Wilson.

On Friday, May 20th, the HOPE Taskforce announced recipients of the fifth round of Taskforce Grant funds to develop community programs providing innovative substance use assistance. The funded programs are:

### **526 Light Foundation: Sober Home Hope**

The funds will support individuals from relapsing after completing a treatment program by providing support to those in need of funds for a sober living home.

### **Serenity House, Prevention Leadership Team, & NAMI DuPage: Teen Ambassadors Project for Mental Health, Substance Use Prevention, and Stigma Reduction**

The grant will support and engage teen volunteers to act as substance use prevention, mental wellness, and stigma reduction peer support ambassadors. Funds will also be used for a mass media stigma reduction campaign, support social norming campaigns, and education to raise community awareness about mental health and substance use prevention for youth.

### **Gateway Foundation: Expanding Behavioral Health Treatment Options**

The funds will help expand treatment options by introducing Low Energy Neurofeedback System (LENS) therapy to individuals seeking treatment for substance use disorder and/or frequently co-occurring mental health issues.

### **Serenity House: Prevention Education Program and Grief Group**

The grant will support substance use disorder prevention education to youth in middle schools, high schools, and universities. Serenity House will also provide support to families through the Family Grief Support Group.

The Taskforce also announced that an additional round of grant funding will open for submissions this June. Those interested in applying for this second round can stay tuned to the [HOPE Taskforce website](#), which will have detailed information about the second round of funding available on June 6th.



## New Student Mental Health Policies

Two new prevention policies have been passed that will impact students at all Illinois schools. The policies are meant to support student mental health and well-being. The first is Public Act 102-0321 and permits students to take up to five mental or behavioral health days per year as excused absences from school, without the requirement of a doctor's note. Additionally, if a student requests a second mental health day, a school counselor is required to contact the family and may refer that student for professional help. This Policy was effective January 1, 2022. The second policy is Public Act 102-0416 and requires schools to include suicide prevention information on student identification cards (if provided), for students in grades 6-12. This Policy will go into effect on July 1, 2022.

The DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team (PLT) has been working with the DuPage ROE to create resources to assist schools in implementing and communicating these policies to parents, caregivers, students, and staff and have made recommendations for what resources to include on student ID's. These resources and materials can be found at <https://dupageplt.org/191/Teachers>.

## Impact DuPage Community Assessment Results Available

Between October 2021 and February 2022, four different community assessments were conducted throughout the county as part of Impact DuPage's work to assess local strengths and needs every three years. Below are brief descriptions and links to the PDF reports for each of the different assessments. The Impact DuPage Steering Committee met in March 2022 to discuss the findings from these assessments and select priority areas, and will vote on a new action plan based on those priorities during their June 2022 meeting.

### Community Profile

Snapshot of the well-being of the community by displaying quantitative information on health status, quality of life, and risk factors.

### Forces of Change

Short focus groups during which community leaders brainstorm important trends, factors, and events that affect our quality of life, and the associated threats and opportunities.

BHC held our own Forces of Change Assessment on October 7, 2021.

### Landscape Review

County-wide survey to learn about residents' perceptions regarding quality of life in DuPage County.

### Local System Assessment

Virtual gathering of partners to assess the strengths and weaknesses of local systems that support the well-being of DuPage County residents.

## BHC June Meeting

We will have a virtual meeting via Zoom on Thursday, June 9th at 8:30am. As always, please register beforehand if you plan to attend, the registration link can be found [here](#). Once you register, you will receive a link to access the meeting. At this meeting we will discuss findings from the 2021-22 Impact DuPage Assessments, updates on the BHC action plan, progress towards behavioral health projects, and upcoming events. We want everyone to share anything they have coming up and if you have flyers or event links, you can send them to Scott Kaufmann before the meeting. We look forward to seeing you next month!

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Do you have an event, program, or achievement that you'd like to share with the BHC? Send an email to [scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org](mailto:scott.kaufmann@dupagehealth.org) and we can include it in our next newsletter or feature it at our next meeting!