

Millage update



Resources from the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage first became available on January 1, 2019.

In this e-mail, we highlight some of the recent work accomplished with millage funding.

Assessing youth needs



Washtenaw County explores the prospect of a youth assessment center. What is it and why does it matter?

At a youth service mapping retreat, local leaders agreed that Washtenaw County needs a systematic approach to divert youth away from the justice system. Juvenile assessment centers (JACs) are a solution that communities across the country have adopted to identify youth needs and subsequently connect youth to appropriate community services. "I feel like we're really close to a spot where the reasons you would have a kid in [juvenile] detention are infinitesimally small," says Mike Langenright, program manager at Washtenaw County Children's Services who is part of a group of local leaders exploring the implementation of a JAC. [Read more.](#)

Substance use disorder access



With greater resources from millage funding, WCCMH becomes single access point for substance use referrals

On the first day of 2022, Washtenaw County residents began to access substance use treatment support, 24/7, through the main Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH) phone line. The number gives residents access to an immediate screening, referral to a community-based provider, or guidance about how to get connected to services. The calls are answered by licensed mental health and substance use professionals. [Read more.](#)

Funding outreach work



Outreach means relationship building: NAMI uses millage funding to reach underserved communities

Since 2020, NAMI has used millage funding to conduct outreach work in underserved areas of Washtenaw County. While millage funding has expanded our county's mental health services, some residents are still unaware. NAMI's outreach work creates and strengthens community relationships and informs people about local resources. [Read more.](#)

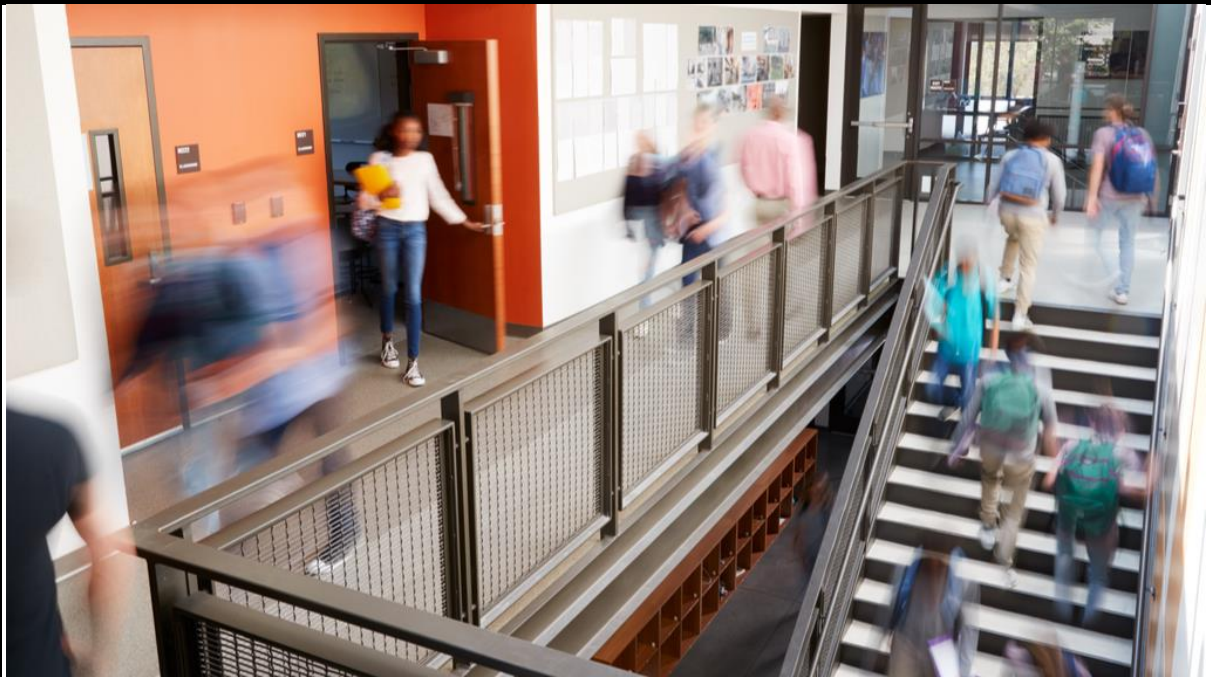
Teaching mental health first aid



With millage funding, a network of Mental Health First Aid trainers are educating our community about mental health

Mental health prevention and education were identified as top community priorities for the millage. That's why funding was used to train local residents to become Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) instructors—who can now train others. "It's highly valuable information for anyone," notes Celeste Gentile, a teacher consultant with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District. "[but] especially for educators, parents, and those who support young people in the educational setting. [Read more.](#)

Supporting students in schools



A tsunami of need: the millage provides funding for social workers who support youth in Washtenaw County schools

As pandemic conditions change, the need for mental health services in schools continues to rise. "It's like a tsunami," says Stacey Doyle, a Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) social worker. "Because of the pandemic, a lot of students are coping with loss right now. Loss of their life before COVID, loss of family members to COVID. There's a lot of isolation, a lot of depression." [Read more.](#)

Decreasing recidivism



Reentry redux: How millage funds help residents of the jail navigate community reentry

More than half of Michiganders who experience jail time will return within three years of release. And for those with mental health or substance use needs, the risk of recidivism is even higher. Washtenaw County is working to change that with community reentry staff and programs co-funded by a federal grant and millage dollars. Washtenaw County's entire reentry team is "passionate about building systems that help people find their place and break their cycles [of incarceration]," says Aaron Sukanuma, reentry coordinator with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. [Read more.](#)

The millage turns three



Three years of millage funding help improve county mental health, substance use, and criminal justice outcomes

It's been just over three years since funding began for Washtenaw County's Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage. However, millage funding priorities were established the year before by the Community Mental Health Advisory Committee (CMHAC), through community engagement and local data. We review how careful planning helped the millage magnify impact where it was most needed and the work that remains. [Read more.](#)

Millage in the news



[Washtenaw County to launch 24/7 hotline for substance use support on Jan. 1](#), **Meredith Bruckner**, All About Ann Arbor

[In rural Washtenaw County, faith leaders work with mental health providers to address COVID impacts](#), **Estelle Sloomaker**, Model D Media

[Washtenaw County specialists use past experience with mental health, substance use to help others](#), **Sabine Bickford Brown**, Concentrate

[Veteran trainer of deputies is Washtenaw County Officer of the Year](#), **Nathan Clark**, MLive

[Washtenaw United: Working to strengthen law enforcement-community relations](#), **David Fair**, WEMU

[To keep teens out of court, new Washtenaw County Sheriff's program teaches them to drive](#), **Lucas Smolcic Larson**, MLive

[Saline gets new interim police chief](#), **Drew Saunders**, The Sun Times News

And remember

**If you or someone you know needs support,
contact us 24/7 at 734-544-3050 or 1-800-440-7548**



