



November 2019 Levy Renewal FAQ

Why is the levy renewal needed?

- Demand for mental health and addiction recovery services continues to rise in our communities.
- State funding for these services has decreased steadily over the past five years.
- This levy currently funds over 25% of the budget for critical services and failing to renew the levy will result in a significant decrease in our ability to respond to those in need.

Is this a new tax?

No, it is not a new tax. It is a renewal of an existing tax which was last approved by voters in 2014. There is a long history of strong support in the community for the Mental Health & Recovery Levy.

What does the levy cost?

This is a 0.5 mill renewal levy and will not increase property taxes. A mill is 1/10 of a cent (or 1/1000 of a dollar), which translates to an annual payment of \$1 per \$1000 of assessed property value. In other words, this 0.5 mill levy would result in a continued payment of \$2.33 per month for a property valued at \$160K.

What is the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Erie and Ottawa Counties?

The Mental Health and Recovery Board of Erie and Ottawa Counties (MHRBEO) serves as the addiction and mental health services planning agency for the communities of Erie and Ottawa Counties to create a continuum of care for those suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders. The MHRBEO does not provide services directly to the individual. Instead, the Board contracts with community agencies and local providers to ensure that counseling and support services, trained professionals, and proven methods are in place and accessible to those in need.

What is the money from the levy used for?

The \$1.9 million annual funding will help ensure that mental health and recovery services are available to residents of Erie and Ottawa Counties through a network of provider agencies. Services include (but are not limited to): access to psychiatric hospitals; suicide prevention; supportive housing; counseling; 24-hour crisis services; peer support; access to detox facilities; medication-assisted treatment; recovery housing; prevention, intervention and treatment services in schools; education and advocacy.

How many people have accessed MHRBEO-funded mental health and substance use disorder services?

- In fiscal year (FY) 2018, over 27,000 individuals directly benefited from 220 programs and services supported by the MHRBEO.
- In 2018, our crisis hotline received more than 11,000 calls, with over 9,000 relevant to mental health issues.
- On any given day, an average of nine (9) individuals from Erie or Ottawa County are patients at the Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital who were assessed by Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services.
- 75% of inmates in our county jails are afflicted with mental illness and/or substance use disorder and have access to mental health and addiction services.

- 559 patients were admitted to Firelands psychiatric unit in 2018.
- In FY 2018, there were 219 admissions to the Erie County Health Department detox unit.
- 49 individuals resided in recovery housing during FY 2019.
- 60 individuals with mental illness received guardianship services to oversee their welfare and finances.
- In FY 2019, 62 families with 97 children were offered assistance through the *GRAND Love* program which assists grandparents (and others) who are raising children with absent parents.
- 18 schools with a total student population of 17,268 received funding to provide a variety of prevention, intervention and treatment services for school year 2019 – 2020.
- In FY 2019, 54 law enforcement and emergency responders were participants in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training in order to sustain more effective interactions among law enforcement, mental health care providers and those with mental illness.
- 165 individuals were trained in Mental Health First Aid in FY 2019.
- Over 400 education staff have been trained in suicide prevention.

Which organizations are funded through MHRBEO and provide services to the community?

The following providers receive funds from the MHRBEO to serve the citizens of Erie and Ottawa Counties:

- **Bayshore Counseling Services (419-626-9156)** – Continuum of care for substance use disorders and mental health.
- **Blanchard Valley Hospital Detox – Findlay (419-423-4500)** – Detox for men and women.
- **Catholic Charities (419-668-3073)** – Guardianship services for individuals with mental health disorders needing oversight of their welfare and finances.
- **Erie County and Ottawa County Sheriffs’ Offices** – Services to inmates with mental health and/or addiction issues, including counseling, psychotropic medication and Medication Assisted Treatment.
- **Erie County Health Department Detox Unit (419-626-5623)** – Detox services for residents in Erie and Ottawa Counties.
- **Erie Shore Network (419-626-2006)** – Consumer operated services for social networking, activities and events for those with mental illness.
- **Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services (800-826-1306)** – Continuum of care for mental health and substance use disorders.
- **Light House Sober Living (419-967-9550)** – Recovery Housing for men and women.
- **Northpoint Education Services Center (419-627-3900)** – Prevention, intervention and treatment services for youth in schools.
- **Oak House (419-734-4417)** – Consumer operated services for social networking, activities and events for those with mental illness.
- **Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center (419-301-0225)** – Manages programs such as CASA, TNT Mentoring, TICKET to Success, *GRAND Love*, and Summer Lunch.
- **Rescue Mental Health and Addiction Services (419-255-3125)** – Crisis care for individuals needing hospitalization for mental health issues.
- **Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center (419-621-9377)** – Consumer operated services for social networking and support services for those with substance use disorder and/or mental illness.
- **Surest Path to Recovery Detox – Bloomville (419-983-4100)** – Detox services for women.
- **Surest Path to Recovery Detox – Fremont (567-280-4531)** – Detox for men.
- **University of Toledo Medical Center (419-383-3815)** – Child and Adolescent Crisis Stabilization Unit.
- **Volunteers of America (419-248-3733)** – Housing for individuals with mental illness or in need of recovery housing.

