

September 2026

The Illinois Public Health Institute is excited to announce a new funding opportunity to expand medical respite services in Illinois.

The Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative is managed by the Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI), with support and funding from the Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). New awards this year will provide **funding for planning and design of new Medical Respite services in Illinois.**¹ In addition to grant funding, awarded organizations will partner with the National Institute for Medical Respite (NIMRC) for technical assistance support, and participate in four statewide learning collaboratives with active medical respite providers, and providers also in the planning stage.

¹ If you have an operating medical respite program in Illinois and have not been part of the Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative, contact Jessica.Lynch@iphionline.org and Sydney.Edmond@iphionline.org prior to starting an application.

Awards will be announced in October 2026, and the funding cycle will run November 2, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Up to 6 new planning awards will be made for medical respite program planning across Illinois. Please note that only one project will be funded in a single community or service area; in cases where we receive more than one application from a community that is selected for funding, we may request that you partner with another applicant.

Selected applicants will receive \$30,000-\$40,000 to support planning of new medical respite programs. The funding and technical assistance support is expected to result in the following outcomes:

- Identification of stakeholders and partners;
- Analysis of the need for and barriers to medical respite in the community;
- Plan for implementing medical respite services in the community.

The deadline to submit applications for this initiative is October 6, 2026.

Questions about the application can be sent to Sydney.Edmond@iphionline.org prior to the deadline. Use subject line: Medical Respite RFA Question.

ILLINOIS MEDICAL RESPITE CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

Overview Summary

Purpose: The Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative supports planning and development of medical respite services in Illinois through funding, technical assistance and learning collaborative opportunities for communities and providers interested in developing medical respite programs that serve Illinoisians experiencing homelessness.

RFA - Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative, Planning Awards

RFA webpage: <https://iphionline.org/medical-respite-rfa-2027/>

Application Due Date: October 6, 2026

Award Amount: \$30,000 - \$40,000 planning award

Application Requirements: Application Questions (beginning p.6 below), Letter of Commitment from Organizational Leadership, and Budget Form

Awardee Notification Date: by October 30, 2026

Program Background

In 2021, Governor Pritzker signed Executive Order 2021-21 to fight homelessness in Illinois. As a result, the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness was convened to bring together state agencies that engage people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, with administrative support from the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) and the State's Chief Homelessness Officer. The Executive Order charged the Task Force with planning for and developing a state plan to address homelessness, which has been fulfilled with the "Home Illinois" State Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Funding is allocated within the State general revenue budget for grants and administrative expenses associated with Homelessness Prevention activities identified in the Home Illinois plan, including the **Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative**.

Medical respite care is acute and post-acute care for people experiencing homelessness who are too ill or frail to recover from an illness or injury on the streets or in a shelter, but who do not require hospital-level care. Unlike "respite" for caregivers, "medical respite" is short-term housing combined with health services that allows individuals experiencing homelessness the opportunity to rest, recover, and heal in a safe environment while accessing medical care and other supportive services. Medical respite care is offered in a variety of settings including freestanding facilities, homeless shelters, motels, and transitional housing (NIMRC). There are limited medical respite options for persons experiencing homelessness in Illinois. OPEH and IDHS have funded the Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) to implement the Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative, including grants and technical assistance for medical respite planning, pilot implementation, and expansion.

The Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) collaborates to advance health justice through equitable policy, systems, and institutional change. IPHI has several Housing and Health initiatives working at the intersection

of housing, homelessness and health, and has facilitated systems collaborations and systems development initiatives among hospitals and health care organizations, providers serving people experiencing homelessness, housing groups, and health departments in Chicago and Cook County. Through the Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative, IPHI is leveraging that experience and relationships to accelerate the development of medical respite services for people experiencing homelessness across Illinois. IPHI will partner with the National Institute for Medical Respite Care (NIMRC) to provide subject matter expertise and technical assistance to communities and providers participating in this project.

The National Institute for Medical Respite Care (NIMRC) is the national institute that advances best practices, expert patient-centered services, and state-of-the-field knowledge in medical respite care (also known as recuperative care). NIMRC is a special initiative of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. NIMRC provides training and technical support, a vast repository of resources and guidelines, state-centered and federal level policy support, legislative and administrative advocacy, philanthropic services, and strategies for building sustainable community partnerships for medical respite. More information on NIMRC and medical respite can be found here: <https://nhchc.org/medical-respite/>

Program Purpose

This request for applications will support up to 10 Illinois communities with funding to plan and build capacity for new medical respite services in their community. This request for applications seeks to add new **Planning awardees to the Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative** – to provide the opportunity for additional organizations to plan and develop new medical respite programs in their communities.¹

¹ If your organization is a new applicant that is (1) already operating a medical respite program, or (2) have already been working to establish a medical respite program, please contact Jessica.Lynch@iphionline.org and Sydney.Edmond@iphionline.org prior to starting the application.

Applicants that did not apply or who were not selected in previous fiscal years are encouraged to apply now. Applicants are encouraged to apply in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

This project welcomes applications from diverse organization types, including:

- Housing and homelessness service providers
- Hospitals, community health centers, and healthcare systems
- Behavioral and mental health care providers
- Substance use treatment facilities
- Other relevant community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Note: existing medical respite providers should contact Jessica.Lynch@iphionline.org and Sydney.Edmond@iphionline.org

With the funding and technical assistance support, awarded participants will be expected to identify stakeholders and potential partners, determine the need for and barriers to medical respite in their

community, and develop a plan to implement new medical respite services to address the need in their community.

Participants will attend 4 virtual learning collaboratives during the grant cycle to share best practices and engage in peer learning on medical respite. Participants will also be encouraged to provide feedback to inform the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) on medical respite benefits for Medicaid.

Award Components & Expectations

The award amount for Planning awardees in FY27 is \$30,000-\$40,000.

- Payment schedule:
 - Approximately 30% of the total grant, invoiced upon execution of agreement
 - A second payment will be distributed by January 2027, and the final payment will be distributed in July 2027
 - All invoices must be received by June 15, 2027
- Reporting requirements:
 - Final summary report on activities (format provided by IPHI)
 - Final financial report on expenditures (final invoice)
 - Periodic performance updates (format provided by IPHI)

The Medical Respite Planning Award recipient is expected to convene partners to:

- Assess the state of medical respite capacity in the communities they serve
- Develop a plan to increase local capacity for medical respite, including the identification of successes, opportunities and barriers to implementation, and the stakeholders and partners involved
- Engage in at least 2 meetings for technical assistance and performance assessments with NIMRC
- Attend the 4 virtual learning collaborative meetings on medical respite with the statewide Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative cohort
- Contribute to policy discussions related to opportunities for Medicaid coverage of medical respite care
- Contribute to system collaboration building for medical respite care at the statewide level and/or in Cook County (depending on the program's location)
- Engage people with lived expertise in their planning

Priority Areas:

- Organizations that serve persons experiencing homelessness.
- Organizations that serve communities or populations that do not currently have medical respite services available.
- Organizations that have geographic reach in and/or prioritize serving communities most impacted by homelessness and health disparities.
- Organizations that provide behavioral health or substance use services.
- Organizations that have a commitment to Housing First and low-barrier services.

Eligibility Criteria

- Only one project will be funded in a single community or service area; in cases where we receive more than one application from a community that is selected for funding, we may request that you partner with another applicant.
- Organizations must have the capacity to execute the requirements of this project, including:
 - Direct experience working with people experiencing homelessness or a partner that has experience working with people experiencing homelessness
 - Ability to convene relevant stakeholders and partners
 - Capacity to dedicate staff time who will manage this project
 - Capacity to manage the funds and produce financial and program reports
- Applicants must not be currently funded by the Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative to be eligible for this award. This funding opportunity is for additional organizations to join the existing cohort.
- Applicants will be selected based on the quality of their proposal, available funding, and ensuring other goals of the program like diversity in geography and organizational types.

Timeline *Please note that this timeline is subject to change.*

Timeline	Activity
September 8, 2026	Applications Open
October 6, 2026	Applications Close at 11:59pm CST
October 30, 2026	Award Notification
November 02, 2026	Program Start Date
June 15, 2027	Final Invoices Due

To Apply

To apply, please send the completed application questions, a completed project budget (form included on the last page), and letter of commitment from a member of your senior leadership team to Jessica.Lynch@iphionline.org and Sydney.Edmond@iphionline.org by October 6, 2026 at 11:59 pm central standard time (CST) with the subject line **Medical Respite RFA**.

Budget Information

Allowable costs include salaries, fringe, consultants or contractors, supplies, travel, occupancy, printing, communications, training, meeting costs, other/miscellaneous, and indirect costs (10% de minimis rate or the applicant's state or federally approved negotiated indirect rate). Equipment purchases over \$5000 may require additional approval. Capital expenditures are not allowed.

Awardees will be required to engage people with lived expertise to inform their planning and should budget to provide compensation for their contributions. People with lived expertise should be included in the consulting/contracting line.

The project period is November 02, 2026 - June 30, 2027.

Contact Information

Questions and inquiries regarding the Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative application and/or award can be sent via email to Jessica.Lynch@iphionline.org and Sydney.Edmond@iphionline.org using the subject line "Medical Respite RFA Question".

Application Questions & Budget Form

Please answer the following questions in a separate document

1. Organization Information and Contact
 - a. Name of Organization:
 - b. Organization Address:
 - c. Employer Identification Number (EIN):
 - d. Primary Contact (First & Last Name):
 - e. Primary Contact Title/Position:
 - f. Primary Contact Email Address:
 - g. Primary Contact Phone Number:
 - h. Name and Contact Information for Finance Contact:
 - i. Name and Contact Information for Signatory:
 - j. UEI Number Confirmation (Sam.gov #), if you have one:
 - k. A W-9 (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification) and a COI (Certificate of Insurance) with IPHI listed as an additional insured party will need to be provided during the contracting process if awarded.

Finance Systems and Reporting:

2. Is your organization newly formed (within the past three years)? (Y/N)
3. What type of financial management system does your organization utilize?
4. Are accounting records supported by source documentation?
5. Does the financial management system provide for prompt and timely recording and reporting of all financial transactions?
6. Please describe the safeguards your organization has in place for preventing loss, damage, or theft of property or assets (inventory control, etc.)?
7. Are payment invoices/vouchers and supporting documents identified by grant number, date(s) and expense classification?
8. Do you maintain documentation for the following types of expenses? Supplies and materials; Office Equipment; Communications & postage; Other Expenses

Application Narrative:

9. Please describe the demographics and/or geographic area that the organization currently serves. (100 words)
10. Please describe the services that your organization or project partners provide to people experiencing homelessness. Please include a brief description of the history and track record of serving this population. (300 words)
11. Team members involved with planning the medical respite program: The members listed should include those who are working directly on the capacity building project, who will attend the learning collaborative meetings and technical assistance meetings with NIMRC, and those who may support the project indirectly by submitting invoices, reports and supporting documents.
Include the following information:
 - name, title, position, email address, relevant responsibilities
12. Please identify an internal operations champion for this work and provide their name, title, position and email address. Ideally, this individual has decision making power to influence systems change.
13. Please describe the need for medical respite services in your community. (200 words)
14. Briefly describe your organization's initial ideas for building local capacity for medical respite. (200 words)
15. Please describe the strengths and/or unique opportunities in your community for developing medical respite services (e.g. community conversations about medical respite have already begun, a coalition of social service agencies is already meeting on a regular basis, the local hospital is working with shelter providers on coordination of medically fragile discharges) (200 words)
16. Please describe potential barriers/challenges to building medical respite services in your community (200 words)
17. Please list community partners/stakeholders that have a vested interest in the development of medical respite services. Additionally, please list community partners/stakeholders that you hope to engage with in this planning process (e.g., community health centers or FQHCs, Continuum of Care (CoC), hospital systems, emergency shelter, etc.) (100 words). Note with an asterisk (*) those that have already agreed to participate and provide a letter of support from those organizations.
18. Please describe how you plan to include people with lived expertise in your plan to create capacity for medical respite care at your site (200 words).
19. Please share any additional information that you believe supports your application (optional, up to 200 words).
20. Please include a brief letter of commitment from a member of the organization's senior leadership team. (The letter can be from the primary contact or a team member listed on the grant if that person is a senior leader for the organization.)

Budget Form

*Illinois Capacity Building Initiative RFA Budget Form
November 01, 2026 – June 30, 2027*

Line Item	Amount	Justification/Explanation
PERSONNEL		
Salaries		
Name/Title		
Name/Title		
Name/Title		
Name/Title		
Fringe		
TOTAL PERSONNEL		
OTHER DIRECT COSTS		
Consulting		
Contracts		
Supplies		
Travel		
Occupancy		
Printing		
Communications		
Training		
Meeting Costs		
Equipment		
Other/Miscellaneous		
TOTAL OTHER DIRECT		
INDIRECT		
Indirect		Indirect rate/percentage used
TOTAL BUDGET		