



CLEARBROOK

Enrich Lives. Embrace Potential.

For Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

June 20, 2024

McHenry County Mental Health Board Members & Leonetta Rizzi, Executive Director
620 Dakota Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

Leonetta and Board Members,

I am writing to request additional funds for the CHOICE FFS grant that would be accessible effective May, 1, 2024. In submitting April's data, Clearbrook has expended the full awarded amount of \$100,000 and is short \$169. As mentioned in a previous public comment, the funds for the CHOICE programs are utilized for individuals who do not have the waiver funding from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Without the FFS dollars, these individuals are not able to participate in Community Day Services.

There are currently 13 individuals who are currently utilizing the FFS dollars. One of the individuals initially began attending part-time and is now attending full-time. There are also three individuals that have been identified to begin attending CHOICE within the next three months who do not have waiver services. This would bring the total to 16 individuals utilizing the FFS dollars. The recent change from 14 individuals to 13 is due to one individual being awarded Home Based Funding from the Division earlier this month.

In addition to the number of individuals receiving and seeking services, there was a 30% increase to the reimbursement rates, effective January 1, 2024. While this is a tremendous benefit to Community Day Services, it has also impacted the dollars that were requested in July of 2023. Clearbrook has utilized the dollars at a faster pace than anticipated.

Clearbrook and Service, Inc. are working with the families to determine if they can apply for funding now for their family members or if they have to continue to wait. As mentioned in public comment and discussions, there are individuals who have been waiting to apply for services for years. Clearbrook and Service, Inc. will continue to work collaboratively to assist individuals.

I would like to request \$165,000 from the McHenry County Mental Health Board to continue supporting the 13 individuals we are currently serving and to allow for more individuals to have access to our Community Day Services. If we are not able to increase the funds, we will have to consider whether or not we can continue supporting these individuals and we will have to put a hold on admissions for those who do not have waiver services.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Emily Fencil
Vice President of Program Services