



Agency Spotlight: Communities In Schools

Every day students in Aurora go to school carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders. Ideally, that weight should only include backpacks full of books and pencils, but in reality, it is more than that. Often they carry the heaviness of depression, anxiety, grief, the stress of poverty or the trauma of sexual and domestic abuse. All of these burdens make learning nearly impossible.

For the past 22 years, Communities In Schools of Aurora (CIS) has been there to alleviate the burden by providing individual and group counseling to students during the school day. The critical connection to a caring adult is the foundation of the CIS service delivery model. CIS removes barriers by bringing in mental health professionals into the schools to assist at-risk students thus redirecting them back on the path to academic success.

Services through the INC-funded comprehensive program begin when a student is identified by school personnel or by a family member as someone needing support. Once the consents have been obtained from the parents/guardians, an assessment is done to determine the level of support needed. The student is then connected with an appropriate mental health professional and they meet at the school on a weekly basis. Progress is communicated with parents monthly via the therapist or parent liaison. The student receives wraparound services until the end of the school year or until the treatment goals are met. Students in middle and high school in Districts 129 and 131 are eligible to receive services. A CIS program coordinator is located at both high schools and manages programs for the middle schools remotely.

During the 2016-17 school year, CIS served over 8,000 students through various initiatives, including the Back to School Fair, city-wide afterschool program, Coats for Kids Program, Holiday Cheer Program, and free summer camps. For more information, see their website at aurora.communitiesinschools.org



2018 Lyle E. Oncken Community Service Award Nomination Form

The Board of Directors of INC Board, NFP is seeking nominations for this year's Lyle E. Oncken Community Services Award.

This award was created by the Board in 1990 in honor of its retired executive director to recognize individuals or organizations of Aurora, Batavia, Big Rock, Blackberry, Kaneville, Sugar Grove or Virgil Townships who have made outstanding contributions in support of services to persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities or substance abuse disorders within our area.

If you would like to nominate an individual or organization, please complete the [nomination form](#) and return it no later than March 9th either by mail or email to: INC Board, NFP, PO Box 935, Aurora, IL 60507-0935 OR eileen@incboard.org Subject: Lyle E. Oncken Nomination



2018-2019 Funders' Consortium Application is Now Available

The funding consortium of INC Board, NFP and Fox Valley United Way has their application available to currently funded agencies. All applications that meet the criteria of the respective funder will be considered. You should have received an email from either funder with further instructions to apply. Please contact us directly with further questions.

Big Rock 708 Board Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on our Big Rock Township 708 Board. If you live within Big Rock Township and are interested in volunteering, please contact Jerry Murphy at 630-892-5456.

The Township 708 Board is composed of volunteers who are passionate about serving their communities in the area of funding and planning for mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance use disorder services in southern Kane County. The Board is composed of seven (7) members appointed by the township supervisor; one (1) member being on the township board. The 708 boards meet three (3) times a year (October, February, June) at a designated location for each township.

NOTE: Volunteers cannot serve on the board of, or work for, any of our [funded](#)

agencies or the Department of Mental Health (DMH).



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