



Village of Mount Prospect Press Release

Village of Mount Prospect hires Initium Health to study expansion of Community Connections Center

Experts in community outreach will conduct community needs assessment

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The Village of Mount Prospect, Illinois, has hired Denver-based public engagement experts Initium Health to implement, facilitate, and evaluate a needs assessment to guide a possible expansion of the Community Connections Center. The Center opened in 2009 in densely populated South Mount Prospect and houses the satellite location of Village's Human Services Department and South Branch Mount Prospect Public Library.

In the 2023 Strategic Planning process, the Village Board identified this community needs assessment as a high priority for the Human Services Department. At the September 17 Board Meeting, Human Services presented the proposal submitted by Initium Health, which the Board approved unanimously.

"This assessment is a guide to the future," said Julie Kane, Director of the Village of Mount Prospect Human Services Department. "The Community Connections Center was created to help us meet the needs of a historically underserved population, and we are excited to work with Initium to ensure we continue meeting those needs."

Said James Corbett, JD, MDiv, a principal with Initium Health: "We use all the latest demographic and psychometric tools in our community needs assessments and follow best practices from the Centers for Disease Control, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and other agencies. The heart of our process to ensure equity is community listening sessions and interviews with key stakeholders. We will get to know the people of Mount Prospect deeply before making our recommendations."

From October through March, residents, community organizations, and stakeholders will be invited to focus groups and interviews, with interpretation services provided as necessary. Initium will deliver its recommendations to the Village by March.

“Initium prevailed in our competitive Request for Proposal process because of their demonstrated success in ensuring all voices are heard,” said Director Kane. Nearly a third of Mount Prospect’s 56,852 residents are foreign-born and more than 40% speak a language other than English at home.

The goals of this updated needs assessment are to identify barriers residents face to accessing social services and health care services, propose potential partnerships with local agencies to meet community needs, and make recommendations for future services and programs.

The last formal community needs assessment was completed in 2007. The data informed and supported the need for a resource center in South Mount Prospect. As a result of that assessment, the Community Connections Center opened at 1711 W. Algonquin Rd.

About the Community Connections Center

The Center serves a diverse population that lives in South Mount Prospect. Since its opening, Human Services and the South Branch Library have continued their mission of meeting the needs of residents and reducing barriers to accessing services. In August of 2024, the Center celebrated its 15-year anniversary.

About Initium Health

Initium Health is a marketing and consulting firm specializing in health strategies, gap analyses, program feasibility studies and community health assessments. With a commitment to innovation and public health improvement, Initium Health supports a wide range of clients including local governments, educational institutions and health systems.

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