



POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE

MATTHEW IVORY
CHIEF OF POLICE

July 1, 2026

Rik Kowall, Township Supervisor
White Lake Township

RE: CONTINUATION OF THE LAKES AREA CORE PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this memorandum is to request approval for funding to continue our collaboration with the Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN), and the Lakes Area Departments of Walled Lake, Wixom, and Wolverine Lake.

HISTORY

In approximately May of 2024, the White Lake Township Police Department, in conjunction with Walled Lake, Wixom, and Wolverine Lake, applied for a federally funded grant in order to institute a mental health co-responder program. The funds were ultimately approved, and a contract was created with OCHN to provide one dedicated co-responder for the agencies. That grant funding was able to sustain the program through September of 2026. We now find ourselves coming to the end of the grant funded program.

Through various meetings with the other three departments and OCHN, it was discovered that the desire to keep the program running is strong, with all agencies advising that they would keep the percentage splits. The only difference in moving forward with a renewed contract would be the method of payment. During the grant, White Lake Township acted as the fiduciary for the grant. All monies were paid to OCHN by White Lake Township, and as such, all reimbursements went back to White Lake Township. Should this contract be renewed, each individual agency would receive a quarterly invoice and would be responsible for payment directly to OCHN.

BENEFITS OF THE CORE PROGRAM

Since the inception of the program, the CORE responder has assisted in numerous cases involving all aspects of mental health, substance use disorder, community support, short- and long-term services, and referrals to outside agencies. While HIPAA laws prohibit OCHN from disclosing certain aspects of the care provided, it has undoubtedly been shown that having them as a resource has connected the correct services with the correct people. With a serious decline in mental health across the country, coupled with the closure of various State institutions, the burden of mental health care fell upon the shoulders of Police Officers. Despite having extensive training in handling people in crisis, the officers dispatched to these types of calls should never be considered clinicians. With CORE responding to calls, there is immediate availability for proper services that are provided.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

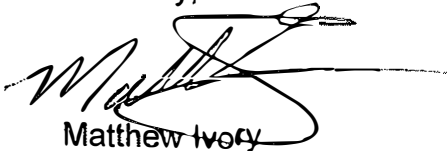
The cost of the new contract, which OCHN has labeled "2027 Budget" is \$142,876.00. It should be noted that this figure is based on OCHN's budget cycle of October through September. It should further be noted that this cost is for the entire program, however White Lake Township is responsible for 30% of that cost, or \$42,862.80 (\$10,715.70 per quarter). That amount would take the contract through the third quarter of 2027. According to OCHN Director of Justice Initiatives, Siiri Sikora, it would be anticipated that the fourth quarter of 2027 would see an increase of 3%, making that quarter's payment approximately \$11,037.17. That fourth quarter would be a different contract.

I have attached supporting documentation of the cost breakdown for the proposal, as well as the 2027 contract budget given by OCHN.

RECOMMENDATION

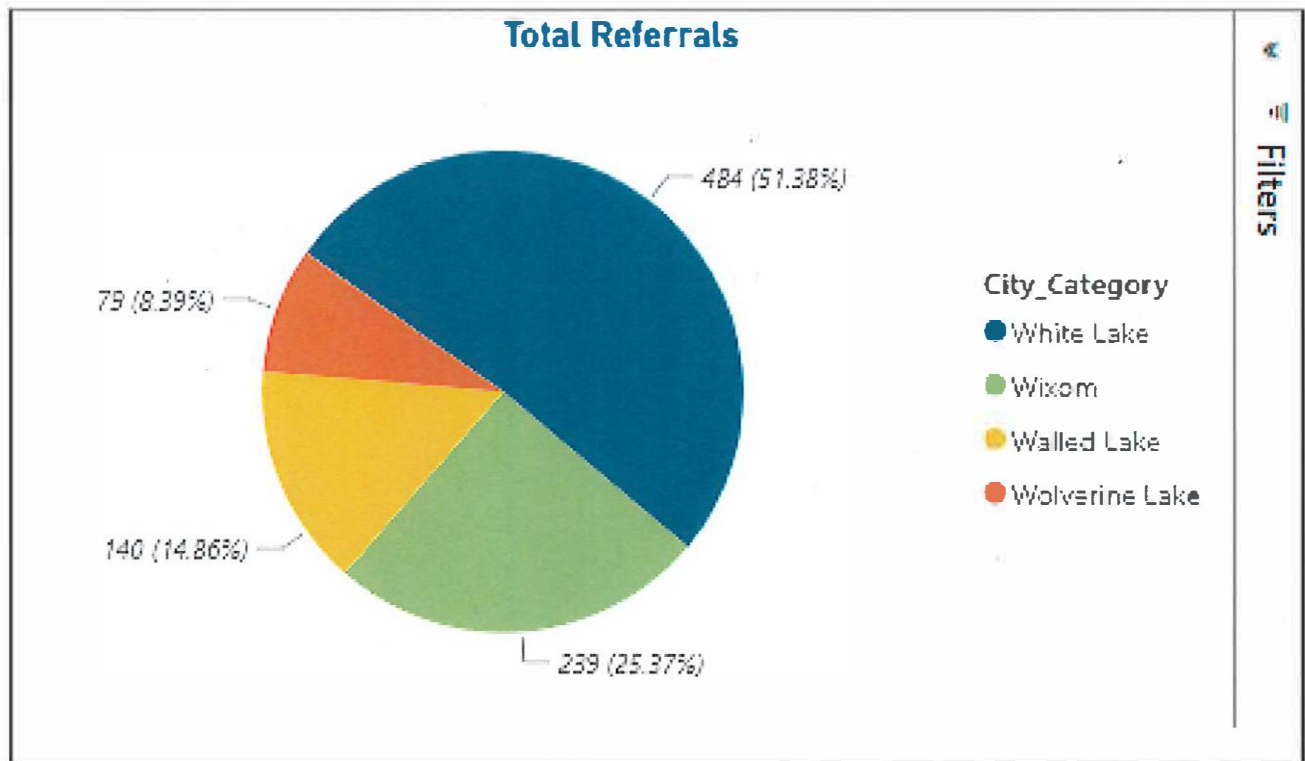
It is recommended that this proposal be approved and that we continue to have a working relationship with the other three Lakes Area agencies, as well as OCHN.

Sincerely,

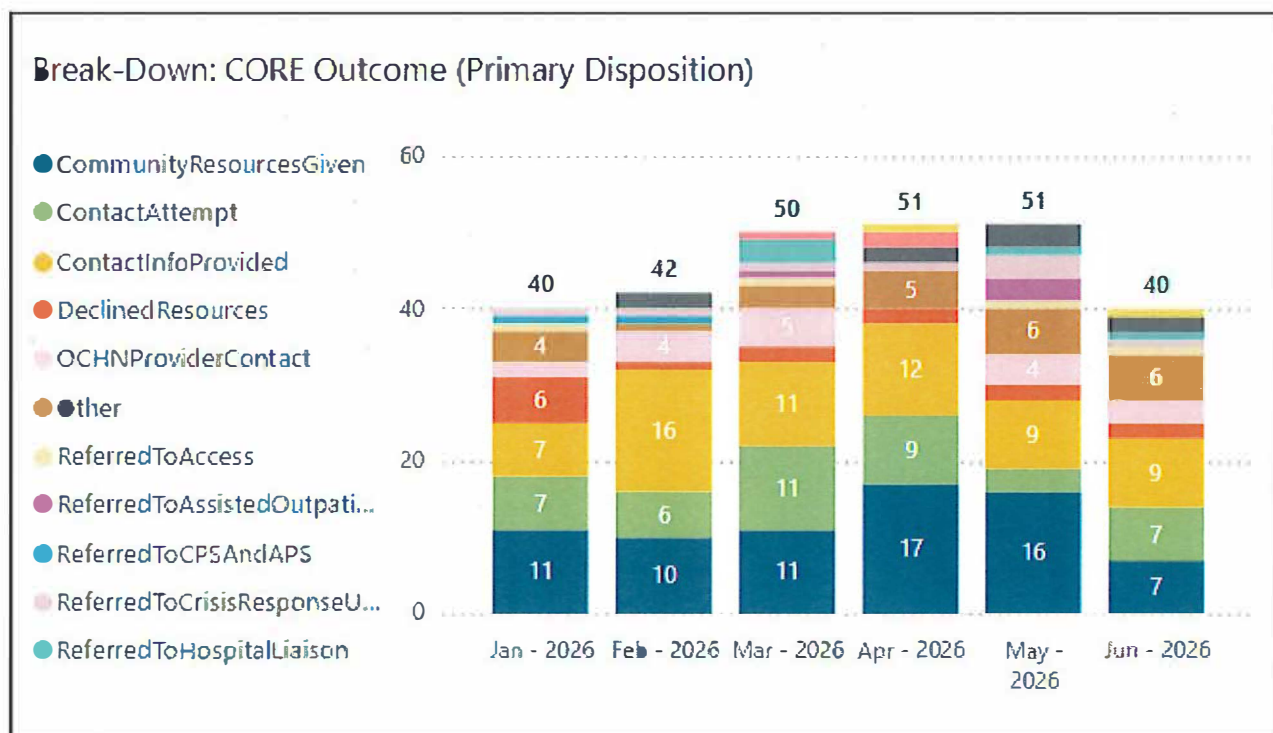


Matthew Ivory
Chief of Police

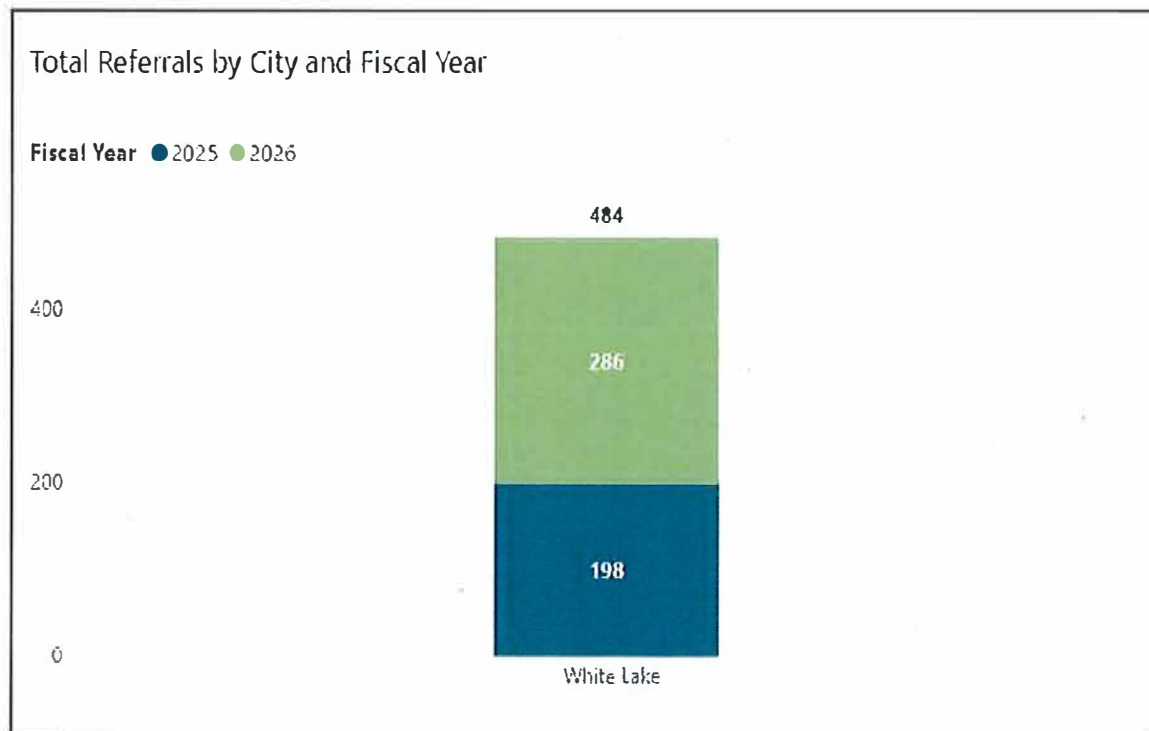
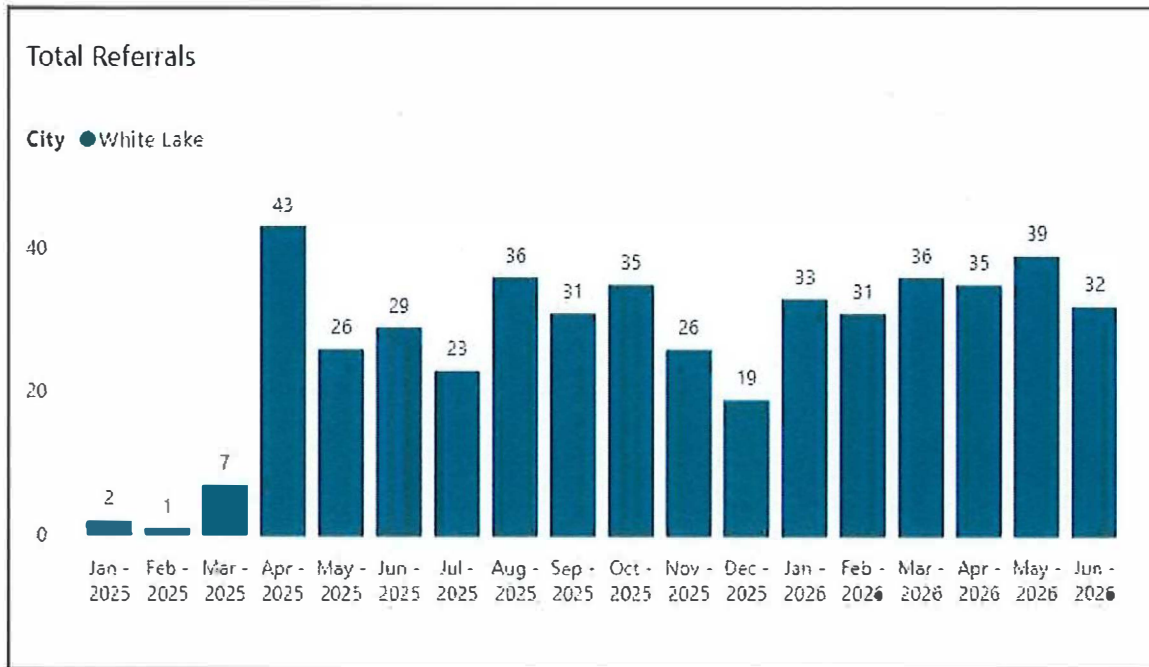
White Lake Combined CoRe Data Jan 2025 – June 2026



White Lake CoRe Data Jan 2026 – June 2026



White Lake CoRe Data Jan 2025 – June 2026



Grants Budget Template

grant name	CoRe W / WL /WL /WL
Fiscal Year	2027

POSITION

Co-Responder Clinician	81,620
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WAGES	81,620
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total fringes	34,280
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Confer/ProDev	500
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mileage	9,600
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supplies	1,000
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TOT DIR COSTS	127,000
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INDIRECT COSTS	15,875
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TOTAL BUDGET	142,876
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OCHN/Lakes Area Department's Co-Responder Program Continuation

		Quarters	Total	Running Total
Annual Q4-26 - Q3-27	\$142,876.00	2026 Q4	\$10,715.70	\$10,715.70
WLTPD 30% Contribution	\$42,862.80	2027 Q1	\$10,715.70	\$21,431.40
		2027 Q2	\$10,715.70	\$32,147.10
		2027 Q3	\$10,715.70	\$42,862.80
		2027 Q4	\$11,037.17	\$53,899.97
		Total	\$53,899.97	

The Co-Responder Program is funded through a collaboration between White Lake Twp, Wixom, Walled Lake, and Wolverine Lake. All agencies fund 30% of the total cost, with the exception of Wolverine Lake who funds 10% of the program.

July 1, 2026

To the White Lake Township Board,

On behalf of Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN), I am writing to express support and gratitude for our continued partnership between OCHN and the White Lake Township Police Department through our embedded Co-Responder Program.

Since launching OCHN's Co-Responder Program in 2021, we have worked alongside law enforcement agencies across Oakland County to improve outcomes for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. What began as an innovative approach to crisis response has grown into a proven countywide model, with behavioral health clinicians embedded across multiple law enforcement agencies and serving more than 20 jurisdictions. The program has demonstrated that pairing law enforcement officers with licensed behavioral health professionals results in more appropriate interventions, stronger connections to treatment and community resources, reduced unnecessary emergency department utilization, and improved outcomes for residents in crisis.

White Lake Township has embraced this collaborative approach by embedding a dedicated co-responder within its Police Department. Since February 2025, Turner Smith, LMSW, has become an invaluable member of the department, providing on-scene crisis intervention, post-incident follow-up, behavioral health assessments, safety planning, resource navigation, and support for officers responding to individuals experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders, suicidal crises, and traumatic events. During the past 15 months alone, Turner has been involved in 484 incidents throughout White Lake Township, providing timely behavioral health intervention and connecting residents with the care and services they need.

Beyond direct crisis response, our co-responders strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies by providing consultation, assisting with complex behavioral health situations, supporting officer wellness, and serving as a bridge between first responders and Oakland County's behavioral health system. Turner also serves as a member of OCHN's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team, allowing him to support both community members and first responders following traumatic incidents when needed.

The success of this partnership reflects the shared commitment of White Lake Township and OCHN to ensuring that residents receive the right response at the right time. By combining public safety and behavioral health expertise, we are better equipped to de-escalate crises, divert individuals from the criminal justice system when appropriate, improve access to treatment, and enhance the safety and well-being of both residents and first responders.

Inspire Hope • Empower People • Strengthen Communities

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www.oaklandchn.org

As OCHN continues to expand and strengthen collaborative public safety partnerships and our crisis continuum throughout Oakland County, White Lake Township remains an outstanding example of how local government, law enforcement, and behavioral health providers can work together to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this important partnership and for your support of innovative approaches that improve the lives of White Lake Township residents. I respectfully encourage your continued investment in the Co-Responder Program and the positive impact it has on your community.

Sincerely,



Trisha Zizumbo
Chief Operating Officer
Oakland Community Health Network