

# Illinois Welcoming Centers Immigrant Mental Health Support

The Latino Policy Forum, in partnership with the Office of Welcoming Centers for Refugee and Immigrant Services, surveyed Illinois Welcoming Centers (IWCs) on the mental health needs of their clients, the current mental health services they offer, and their interest in receiving funding to incorporate or expand mental health services to their community members.

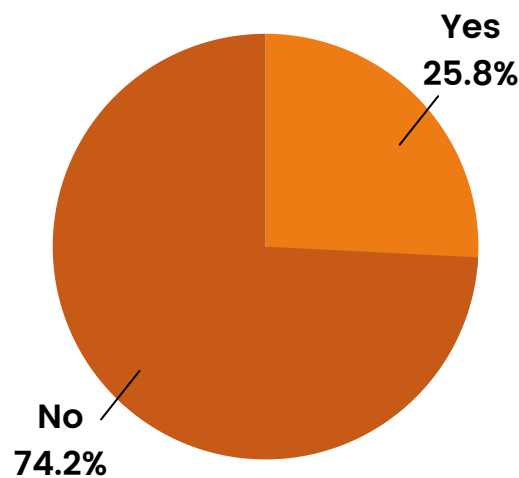
IWCs are currently not appropriated funding for mental health support through the Welcoming Centers budget. Of the 31 IWCs surveyed, eight, or 25.8% receive funding from other sources to implement mental health services. A few examples of their funding sources are: federal, philanthropic, and township.

Across IWCs, themes of urgent need for bilingual and bicultural counseling, support groups and crisis intervention services were salient. Twenty-nine (94%) of the IWCs stated interest in receiving funding for mental health support. Of the two IWCs that said they were not interested, one would like funding to be directed to their partner agencies that specialize in mental health, and the other already provides limited mental health support to a portion of their clients.

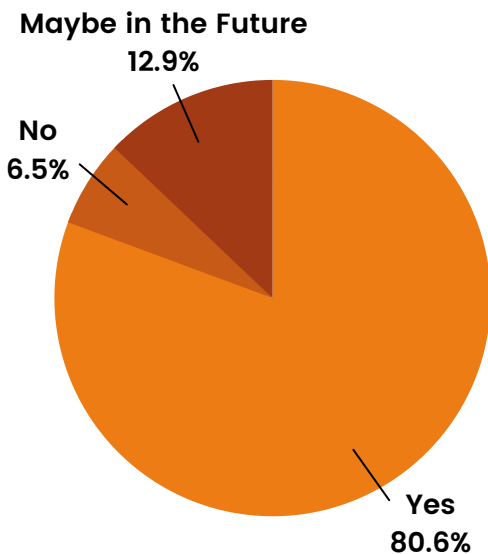
## Primary Mental Health Concerns:

- Depression
- PTSD
- Anxiety
- Gender-based violence
- Addiction/Substance Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Chronic Stress
- Trauma
- Suicidal Ideation
- Social & Cultural Adjustment

Surveyed IWCs that currently provide mental health services



Surveyed IWCs interest in mental health funding



## Immigrant Community Mental Health Needs Identified by IWCs

- Language accessible & culturally sensitive services
- Free/low-cost services
- Services not dependent on insurance/immigration status
- More providers that take Medicaid & All Kids
- Individual, group & family counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Youth-directed services
- Mental health evaluations for legal immigration relief
- Parenting & support groups