



Hello,

Welcome to the 55th edition of our 211 newsletter, where we share information on 211 services and benefits, funding updates, and opportunities for you to become an advocate for 211.



A Victory for 211 Illinois

We are thrilled to share the exciting news from this most recent Illinois legislative session. The 211 Illinois board has secured a \$3 million grant for fiscal 2023-2024 to support 211 services and expand coverage to uncovered counties. The funding announcement is a huge victory and will allow 211 Illinois to plan for and strengthen the future of our statewide 211 network.

This challenging and tireless work to expand 211 coverage for all Illinoisans has been led by 211 Illinois Board Chair, Kristi Long, who also serves as President & CEO of United Way of Lake County. Thanks also to Steve Carlson and Glenda Abbott who continue to champion Lake County's 211 and serve on the Illinois 211 Board, as well as Kelly Cotter and Michelle Crombie who provided tremendous support on the grant application and submittal process.

United Way of Lake County is proud to help lead the way to bring 211 services to all Illinois communities and be a model program. 211 has now expanded to more than 90% of the state, up from 36% just a year ago. As of right now, 7 million more Illinoisans have access to 211!



Mental Health Awareness Month: #MoreThanEnough

This year, NAMI is celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month with the More Than Enough campaign. It's an opportunity for all of us to come together and remember the inherent value we each hold—no matter our diagnosis, socioeconomic status, background or ability. **The campaign's message is that no matter what, you are inherently worthy of more than enough life, love and healing. Showing up, just as you are, for yourself and the people around you is more than enough.**

Mental health is one of the most important aspects of our overall well-being and it affects how we think, feel and act. However, mental health issues remain highly stigmatized and often go undiagnosed or untreated due to the lack of awareness, accessibility and resources.

To address this issue and improve access to life-saving resources, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved 988 as the new three-digit emergency number that connects individuals in crisis with mental health services. This change has made it easier for individuals in crisis to access professional support and intervention services.

If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide or experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org to reach a trained crisis counselor, 24/7.

If you're looking for information, support or access to resources, call 211 or text your zip code to 898-211 to connect with a caring person who can help guide you. 211 is available 24/7 with English and Spanish-speaking support and interpretation to more than 150 languages.

You are not alone. Help is here. Talk to someone.





211 Training for First Responders

Earlier this month, we conducted 211 training during three shifts of roll call briefings at the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Idleburg wanted to ensure that deputies understood how 211 could help them in their work with community members. The training included an overview of 211, examples of how 211 can connect community members with essential information and resources, and a review of the differences between 211, 911 and 988. We provided 211 information for deputies and materials to hand out to community members.

Our 211 Team can provide 211 training and promotional materials for your organization. Contact Sara Martinez at Sara.Martinez@uwlakeco.org or 847-775-1046. Visit the 211LakeCounty.org website where you'll find our **211 Toolkit** featuring a wide range of print and downloadable promotional materials to help spread the word about 211!

Charla con el



PRESENTADO POR
SARA MARTINEZ



What's New on 'Charla con el 211'

On May 9, our 211 Ambassador Sara Martinez and radio host Jose Rodriguez spoke with Martha Hernandez, New Americans Initiative Program Coordinator with HACES (Hispanic American Community Education and Services) about how they help eligible immigrants navigate their path to citizenship and the resources available to them. The monthly talk show series is on TUDN Radio WKRS 1220-AM and is livestreamed on Facebook.

In case you missed it, you can [watch the episode on Facebook here](#).

Next up: Tune in to 1220-AM on **Tuesday, June 13 at 9:00 a.m.** for the next episode of Charla con el 211 with Veronica Vervilos, Counselor with the New Horizons therapy program for victims. Veronica will be talking about mental health resources for youth. You can watch the show LIVE on our [Facebook page](#)! Be sure to listen for our Spanish 211 radio ads on 1220-AM too.

Attention Service Providers

If you are a 211 health and human services partner offering summer programs and opportunities for community members, please be sure to submit information to 211 by emailing 211LakeCounty@icfs.org with details.

Our Community of 211 Donors

Thank you to our community partners and many individuals for their generous financial support to help us sustain 211 for Lake County. [View our list of funding partners here](#).

How can you help?

1. Share this email and encourage your network to [opt-in to 211 communications](#).
2. [Help sustain 211 with an online donation](#).
3. Follow United Way of Lake County on social media to receive timelier 211 updates.



Best regards,

United Way of Lake County's 211 team