

May 11, 2026

Oklahoma State Department of Health
Rural Health Transformation Program
Rural Regional Reorientation Program

Re: Letter of Support for Inner Circle Mental Health

To Whom It May Concern:

The Cleveland County Board of County Commissioners supports Inner Circle Mental Health's application for the Oklahoma Rural Regional Reorientation funding opportunity.

The proposed **Resilient Oklahoma Rural Resilience Cohort System** would strengthen rural behavioral health access, referral pathways, responder support, youth and family support, workforce resilience, and post-incident response in rural and rural-serving Cleveland County communities.

If funded, the project would support eligible rural communities such as Noble, Lexington, Slaughterville, Little Axe, and related public safety, school, healthcare, local government, and community partners.

The Board recognizes the value of practical rural behavioral health infrastructure that helps residents, responders, families, and staff connect to support earlier.

Sincerely,

Jacob McHughes
Chairman

Rusty Grissom
Vice Chairman

Rod Cleveland
Member

Resilient Oklahoma Rural Resilience Cohort System

Cleveland County Letter of Support Request

Lead Applicant: Inner Circle Mental Health

Project Framework: Resilient Oklahoma

Funding Opportunity: Oklahoma Rural Regional Reorientation Program (RHTP)

Request to Cleveland County BOCC: Letter of Support

Project Overview

Inner Circle Mental Health is applying for Oklahoma Rural Regional Reorientation funding to launch the **Resilient Oklahoma Rural Resilience Cohort System**, a rural behavioral health access, workforce support, and community resilience project.

The project works across **multiple county pathways**, not just responder departments. It is designed to help rural and rural-serving communities connect people to behavioral health support earlier through coordinated tools for:

- public safety and emergency response;
- schools and youth-serving partners;
- rural healthcare and behavioral health providers;
- county and local government systems;
- social service and community organizations;
- families, caregivers, and residents.

This is not just a training project. It is a **rural behavioral health access infrastructure project** that provides practical tools communities can use before distress becomes crisis.

Cleveland County Focus

For Cleveland County, the project would focus on **rural and rural-serving communities**, including areas such as:

- Noble
- Lexington
- Slaughterville
- Little Axe
- rural-serving fire, EMS, law enforcement, schools, local government, healthcare, and community partners

The project is not focused on Norman or the larger urban center. It is intended to support rural Cleveland County communities and partners that often have fewer behavioral health resources and more limited access to specialized support.

The Project's Three Pathways

1. Responder and Workforce Pathway

Supports law enforcement, fire, EMS, dispatch, corrections, rural healthcare workers, and other high-stress public-facing roles.

Includes:

- responder and supervisor mental health training;
- post-incident response tools;
- supervisor check-in scripts;
- peer/local champion materials;
- responder family support resources;
- ResponderReady clinician access.

2. Youth and Family Pathway

Supports schools, youth-serving organizations, families, and community partners who are often first to notice distress in children and families.

Includes:

- youth/family referral pathway tools;
- caregiver support materials;
- school/community resource guides;
- early warning signs tools;
- QR-linked youth and family resources.

3. Community Access Pathway

Supports the broader county system by making behavioral health resources easier to find, understand, and use.

Includes:

- provider-neutral behavioral health referral pathways;
- warm handoff scripts;
- local resource navigation tools;
- access equipment for training and resource navigation;
- recorded trainings and LMS access;
- quarterly tracking tools to measure use and impact.

What Participating Communities Would Receive

If funded, participating rural communities would receive:

- training seats for responders, schools, healthcare workers, social service partners, and local champions;
- provider-neutral referral pathway tools;
- post-incident response guides;
- youth, adult, and family support materials;
- local champion and train-the-trainer resources;
- QR-linked resource cards and printed tools;
- access equipment for training and resource navigation;
- recorded training modules and LMS access;
- quarterly tracking tools to measure use and impact.

How This Benefits Cleveland County

This project would help rural Cleveland County by:

- strengthening support for rural public safety agencies;
- helping schools and youth-serving partners connect families to support earlier;
- creating clearer behavioral health referral pathways across county systems;
- giving supervisors and local leaders tools to respond after hard calls or critical incidents;
- supporting smaller communities outside the county's urban center;
- improving coordination between public safety, schools, healthcare, and community partners;
- creating reusable tools that remain available after the grant period;
- supporting continuity during the current sheriff transition.

What the County Is Being Asked to Do

The Cleveland County Board of County Commissioners is being asked to provide a **letter of support** for the grant application.

The letter would confirm that the Board recognizes the need for improved rural behavioral health access, responder support, youth/family support, referral pathways, and post-incident resources in rural Cleveland County communities.

This letter does **not** commit the County to:

- provide funding;
- manage the grant;
- provide staff;
- accept legal responsibility for the project;
- refer people to Inner Circle Mental Health;
- participate beyond its desired level if the project is funded.

Inner Circle Mental Health is asking for the Board's support to bring practical behavioral health infrastructure to rural Cleveland County communities.

This project supports the whole county system — responders, schools, healthcare partners, local government, families, and community organizations — by creating tools, training, referral pathways, and post-incident support before distress becomes crisis.