

June 29, 2026

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: 312-705-6012
EMAIL: Rebecca.Lindstrom@icemiller.com**Via Federal Express and E-Mail (DPH.HFSRB@illinois.gov)**

Mr. John Kniery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board ("HFSRB")
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project No. 26-025 – Rochelle Community Hospital

Dear Mr. Kniery:

On May 8, 2026, Rochelle Community Hospital Association ("RCH") submitted its application for permit in connection with the above-referenced project. Included in the application were twenty-five (25) letters of support from a broad range of community leaders and stakeholders, including, among others:

- State Representative Bradley J. Fritts;
- the Administrator of the Ogle County Public Health Department;
- the Chief Executive Officer for the Western Region of OSF HealthCare;
- the Chief Clinical Officer of Sinnissippi Centers (regional, community-based behavioral health provider);
- the Mayor of Rochelle; and
- numerous members of the Rochelle City Council.

Copies of these previously submitted letters of support are enclosed for reference.

The application also included the enclosed correspondence from Congressman Darin LaHood to the House Committee on Appropriations requesting funding for the project and highlighting both the need for the project and significant benefits it will provide to the community.

RCH now submits the following materials for the HFSRB's consideration:

- Letters of support from Schmeling Construction Co. and RCH's CEO;
- The requested compliance letter from the Illinois Historic Preservation Office; and
- Revised pages of the application reflecting RCH's current number of CON-authorized medical-surgical beds.

We appreciate the HFSRB's consideration of these materials in support of the application.

June 29, 2026
Page 2

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

ICE MILLER LLP

/s/Rebecca Lindstrom

Rebecca Lindstrom

Enclosures – Letters of Support included in Application
Congressman LaHood's Funding Request
Letters of Support from Schmeling Construction and RCH CEO
Historic Resources Preservation Act Compliance Letter
Amended Application Pages – Pages 4, 8, and 40



Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the City of Rochelle, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

RCH plays a critical role as a trusted, accessible, and patient-centered healthcare provider for residents of Rochelle and the surrounding rural communities. As patient needs evolve and demand increases, the hospital requires modernized facilities and updated clinical spaces to continue delivering safe, efficient, and exceptional care. The proposed improvements will directly address these needs.

Improved Access to Care

Enhancing emergency, convenient care, radiology, and laboratory services will significantly expand access for patients who rely on timely diagnostics, urgent evaluations, and efficient care pathways. These upgrades will reduce wait times, increase service capacity, and allow more patients to receive care close to home instead of traveling to distant hospitals.

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patient outcomes. This project will ensure that clinicians have the tools and space needed to deliver the highest standards of care.

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Updated layouts, expanded treatment areas, and streamlined workflows will improve patient movement through each department, reduce bottlenecks, enhance safety, and support a more efficient use of staff resources. These gains are essential for meeting growing demand and supporting a positive patient experience.

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For a rural community, the stability of the local hospital is vital to the region's health, economy, and resilience. This capital project is not just a facilities improvement—it's a long-term investment in ensuring that Rochelle Community Hospital remains a strong, sustainable healthcare anchor for generations to come.

For these reasons, I offer my full support for RCH's capital project and recognize the profound and lasting impact this investment will make on the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,



Jenny Thompson

Director of Community Engagement/Assistant to the City Manager
City of Rochelle
jthompson@rochelleil.us



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Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
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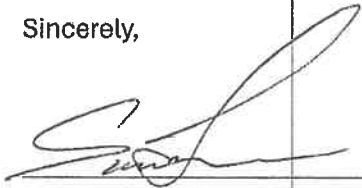
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Tesreau', is written over a horizontal line.

Sam Tesreau
Interim City Manager
City of Rochelle
stesreau@rochelleil.us



Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

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Sincerely,

Michelle J. Pease

Michelle Pease
Community Development Director
City of Rochelle
mpease@rochelleil.us

DISTRICT OFFICE:
101 WEST FIRST STREET
SUITE 501
DIXON, IL 61021
PH: 815-561-3690



CAPITOL OFFICE:
221-N STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
PH: 217-782-0535

BRADLEY J. FRITTS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
74TH DISTRICT

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of Illinois House District 74, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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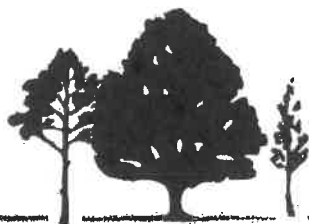
Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Please feel free to reach out to my office with questions by phone at 815-561-3690 or by email at Fritts@ILHouseGOP.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bradley J. Fritts".

State Representative Bradley J. Fritts
District 74

BOYBEAN INKS



Rochelle Area **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Emily Anaya". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn across it.

Emily Anaya

Executive Director

Rochelle Area Community Foundation

director@rochellefoundation.org



Rochelle Fire Department
401 5th Ave.
Rochelle, IL 61068

David W. Sawlsville
Fire Chief
Phone: (815) 562-2121

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the Rochelle Fire Department, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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Sincerely,



David Sawlsville
Fire Chief
Rochelle Fire Department
dsawlsville@rochelleil.us

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosie Arteaga". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Rosie Arteaga
City Council
City of Rochelle

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Hayes", is written over a horizontal line.

Bill Hayes
City Council
City of Rochelle

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.552.2480

March 3, 2026

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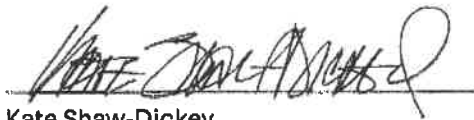
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Shaw-Dickey", written over a horizontal line.

Kate Shaw-Dickey
City Council
City of Rochelle

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
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ktracy@rcha.net/815.662.2480

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Dan McDermott
City Council
City of Rochelle

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
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ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

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Tom McDermott
City Council
City of Rochelle



P.O. Box 131 • Rochelle, IL 61068

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
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ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

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(815)562-8890 24 Hour Hotline

(815)562-4323 Office

(815)562-5756 Fax



www.hopedv.org





P.O. Box 131 • Rochelle, IL 61068

Enhanced Patient Throughput and Operational Efficiency

Updated layouts, expanded treatment areas, and streamlined workflows will improve patient movement through each department, reduce bottlenecks, enhance safety, and support a more efficient use of staff resources. These gains are essential for meeting growing demand and supporting a positive patient experience.

Securing the Long-Term Viability of the Hospital

For a rural community, the stability of the local hospital is vital to the region's health, economy, and resilience. This capital project is not just a facilities improvement—it's a long-term investment in ensuring that Rochelle Community Hospital remains a strong, sustainable healthcare anchor for generations to come.

For these reasons, I offer my full support for RCH's capital project and recognize the profound and lasting impact this investment will make on the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Laudati

Executive Director

HOPE of Ogle County

rlaudati@hopedv.org

(815)562-8890 24 Hour Hotline



(815)562-4323 Office
www.hopedv.org

(815)562-5756 Fax



Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of Premier Health Consultants Inc, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

RCH plays a critical role as a trusted, accessible, and patient-centered healthcare provider for residents of Rochelle and the surrounding rural communities. As patient needs evolve and demand increases, the hospital requires modernized facilities and updated clinical spaces to continue delivering safe, efficient, and exceptional care. The proposed improvements will directly address these needs.

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Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sathish Chandra", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Cullath
Owner/Hospitalist
Premier Health Group
sathishch1@gmail.com



March 3, 2026

Karen Tracy

Chief Executive Officer

Rochelle Community Hospital

900 North Second Street

Rochelle, IL 61068

Dear Ms. Tracy,

On behalf of Ridge Ambulance Service, I am pleased to formally express our strong support for the capital improvement project at Rochelle Community Hospital. This initiative to enhance and modernize the Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services represents a vital investment in strengthening regional access to high-quality healthcare and ensuring the long-term vitality of this essential community institution.

Rochelle Community Hospital remains a cornerstone of healthcare for Rochelle and surrounding rural areas. As patient volumes grow and care demands evolve, updating clinical spaces and diagnostic capabilities is essential to deliver safe, efficient, and patient-centered services.

The proposed enhancements will expand timely access to urgent evaluation and rapid diagnostics—critical for the patients we serve daily through emergency transports. These upgrades are anticipated to reduce wait times, boost capacity, and decrease the need for out-of-community transfers, thereby improving care continuity and convenience.

Modernized facilities and technology will empower healthcare teams to provide faster assessments, timely testing, and earlier interventions, all of which contribute to better patient outcomes. Optimized layouts, expanded treatment areas, and streamlined workflows will also improve throughput, ease operational bottlenecks, and make more effective use of staff resources—benefits that directly support a positive patient experience amid rising demand.



For rural communities like ours, a strong local hospital is fundamental to health, economic stability, and resilience. This project is more than a facility upgrade; it is a lasting commitment to keeping Rochelle Community Hospital as a sustainable, trusted anchor for generations ahead.

Ridge Ambulance Service offers its full and unequivocal support for this important initiative. We deeply value our ongoing collaboration with the hospital and recognize the profound, positive impact these improvements will have on the communities we both serve.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing healthcare in our region. Please feel free to contact me at any time if additional information or perspective would be useful.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Probst", is written over the printed name.

Steve Probst

Rochelle Station Supervisor

Ridge Ambulance Service

sprobst@ridgeems.com

FLAGG-ROCHELLE



**Public
Library
District**

819 Fourth Avenue • Rochelle, Illinois 61068-1512
815-562-3431 • Fax: 815-562-3432

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rchs.net/815.562.2480

March 4, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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For these reasons, I offer my full support for RCH's capital project and recognize the profound and lasting impact this investment will make on the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,



Sarah K. Flanagan
Director

Flagg-Rochelle Public Library
sarahf@flaggrochellepubliclibrary.org

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the Rochelle City Council, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Valdivieso', is written over a horizontal line.

Ben Valdivieso
City Council Member
Rochelle City Council
bvaldivieso@rochellell.us



Karen Tracy Chief Executive Officer Rochelle Community Hospital 900 North
Second Street

Rochelle, IL 61068 ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the City of Rochelle, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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420 North 6th Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
www.cityofrochelle.net

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For these reasons, I offer my full support for RCH's capital project and recognize the profound and lasting impact this investment will make on the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,



Mayor John Bearrows
City of Rochelle
jbearrows@rochelleil.us



OSF[®] HEALTHCARE

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of OSF HealthCare, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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OSF HEALTHCARE

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Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,

AJ Querciagrossa
Chief Executive Officer - Western Region
OSF HealthCare
august.j.querciagrossa@osfhealthcare.org



Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net / 815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the Rochelle School Districts, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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On top of all of this, the Rochelle Community Hospital has been an active partner in programming, education, and offerings for our students and parents in joint efforts to improve the lives and overall health of our community's students and families.

For these reasons, I offer my full support for RCH's capital project and recognize the profound and lasting impact this investment will make on the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Harper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Harper

Superintendent of the Rochelle Schools

jharper@rthsd212.org / 815-562-4161



401 Cherry Ave, Rochelle, IL 61068
Office (815) 562-5050 Fax (815) 561-7012
www.hubcityseniorcenter.com

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

Executive Director
Diana King

Board Members:
Chet Olson
President

Fred Horner
Vice-President

Sarah Flanagan
Sec-Treasurer

Bobble Colbert
David Eckhardt
Deb Schiller
Rebecca Fraley

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the Hub City Senior Center, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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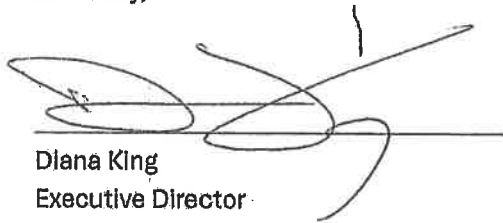
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Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana King', is written over a horizontal line.

Diana King
Executive Director
Hub City Senior Center
hubcityseniors@gmail.com



Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rchs.net/815.562.2480
March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,



Tricia Herrera

Executive Director

Rochelle Chamber of Commerce

rochellechamber@gmail.com



SINNISSIPPI CENTERS
Together we inspire wellness

Administrative offices
325 Illinois Route 2 Dixon, IL 61021

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ltracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of Sinnissippi Centers, Inc., I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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www.sinnissippi.org

info@sinnissippi.com

800-242-7642

Sinnissippi Centers receives local funding including support from 708 Mental Health and 553 Public Health boards and local United Way chapters. Sinnissippi Centers is funded, in part, by the Illinois Department of Human Services. Sinnissippi Centers is accredited by The Joint Commission and is a recipient of the Gold Seal of Approval.



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Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,

Tammy Stewart, Chief Clinical Officer
Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.

www.sinnissippi.org

info@sinnissippi.com

800-242-7642

Sinnissippi Centers receives local funding including support from 708 Mental Health and 553 Public Health boards and local United Way chapters. Sinnissippi Centers is funded, in part, by the Illinois Department of Human Services. Sinnissippi Centers is accredited by The Joint Commission and is a recipient of the Gold Seal of Approval.

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480



March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of Reagan Mass Transit, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Gates', written in a cursive style.

Greg Gates
Executive Director
Reagan Mass Transit
ggates@reaganmtd.org



Prevent • Promote • Protect

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the Ogle County Public Health Department, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

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907 Pines Rd, Oregon, IL 61061 • 510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle, IL 61068
P: 815.562.6976 • F: 815.732.7458 • health@oglecountyil.gov
www.health.oglecountyil.gov



Enhanced Patient Throughput and Operational Efficiency

Updated layouts, expanded treatment areas, and streamlined workflows will improve patient movement through each department, reduce bottlenecks, enhance safety, and support a more efficient use of staff resources. These gains are essential for meeting growing demand and supporting a positive patient experience.

Securing the Long-Term Viability of the Hospital

For a rural community, the stability of the local hospital is vital to the region's health, economy, and resilience. This capital project is not just a facilities improvement—it's a long-term investment in ensuring that Rochelle Community Hospital remains a strong, sustainable healthcare anchor for generations to come.

For these reasons, I offer my full support for RCH's capital project and recognize the profound and lasting impact this investment will make on the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,



Melissa Spangler, MHA, BA
Administrator
Ogle County Public Health Department
mspangler@oglecountyil.gov

907 Pines Rd, Oregon, IL 61061 • 510 Lincoln Hwy, Rochelle, IL 61068
P: 815.562.6976 • F: 815.732.7458 • health@oglecountyil.gov
www.health.oglecountyil.gov





Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of Emergency Physician Staffing Solutions, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

RCH plays a critical role as a trusted, accessible, and patient-centered healthcare provider for residents of Rochelle and the surrounding rural communities. As patient needs evolve and demand increases, the hospital requires modernized facilities and updated clinical spaces to continue delivering safe, efficient, and exceptional care. The proposed improvements will directly address these needs.

Improved Access to Care

Enhancing emergency, convenient care, radiology, and laboratory services will significantly expand access for patients who rely on timely diagnostics, urgent evaluations, and efficient care pathways. These upgrades will reduce wait times, increase service capacity, and allow more patients to receive care close to home instead of traveling to distant hospitals.

Improved Quality of Care and Patient Outcomes

By modernizing clinical environments and integrating updated technology, RCH will

strengthen its ability to provide efficient emergency care and high-quality diagnostic services. Emergency response, rapid testing and early detection are directly linked to better patient outcomes. This project will ensure that clinicians have the tools and space needed to deliver the highest standards of care.

Enhanced Patient Throughput and Operational Efficiency

Updated layouts, expanded treatment areas, and streamlined workflows will improve patient movement through each department, reduce bottlenecks, enhance safety, and support a more efficient use of staff resources. These gains are essential for meeting growing demand and supporting a positive patient experience.

Securing the Long-Term Viability of the Hospital

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For these reasons, I offer my full support for RCH's capital project and recognize the profound and lasting impact this investment will make on the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,



Chris Troxell
Business Manager
Emergency Physician Staffing Solutions
christroxell@epsserdoc.com

DARIN LAHOOD

16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
LaHood.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
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COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHINA



503 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6201
FAX: (202) 225-9249

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Campus Redevelopment project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Rochelle Community Hospital, located at 900 N 2nd St, Rochelle, IL 61068. The funding would be used for the construction and modernization of emergency, radiology, laboratory, and urgent care facilities.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Rochelle Community Hospital is a 25-bed independent critical access hospital whose oldest infrastructure dates to 1944, with 59 percent of mechanicals in the oldest portions of the building determined to be end-of-life. The six-bed Emergency Department treats between 8,000 and 9,000 patients annually and regularly exceeds capacity, the Laboratory processes over 87,000 specimens per year in less than 2,000 square feet with inadequate climate controls, and the facility's Convenient Care clinic is one of the only urgent care options within a ten-mile radius. The proposed construction will replace the failing 1944 structure with a purpose-built facility that expands emergency capacity, modernizes critical building systems, and ensures continued access to quality healthcare for a rural community with limited alternatives.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under the Public Health Service Act.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

NORMAL DISTRICT OFFICE
108 EAST BEAUFORT STREET
NORMAL, IL 61761
(309) 445-8080

PEORIA DISTRICT OFFICE
100 NE MONROE STREET, ROOM 100
PEORIA, IL 61602
(309) 671-7027
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ROCKFORD, IL 61108
(779) 238-4785



WWW.SCHMELINGCONSTRUCTION.COM

315 HARRISON AVENUE – ROCKFORD, IL 61104-7051 – PHONE 815-399-7800 – FAX 815-399-0129

June 26, 2026

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (“HFSRB”)
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Rochelle Community Hospital – Project No. 26-025

Dear Members of the HFSRB,

Schmeling Construction Co. submits this letter in support of Rochelle Community Hospital’s proposed project.

We have worked closely with Rochelle Community Hospital’s project team to ensure the scope of the project is appropriate and cost-conscious, while addressing identified needs of the hospital and community. The costs associated with the project are largely driven by the following existing site conditions and required infrastructure upgrades.

First, subsurface conditions across the campus present unique construction considerations. Limestone is encountered at relatively shallow depths throughout the site, affecting excavation and the installation of new utilities. As a result, additional effort and specialized construction techniques are required to properly install essential infrastructure systems, including water, sewer, stormwater, gas, and electrical services. These measures are necessary to ensure long-term durability and system reliability.

Second, the project includes the planned replacement and modernization of much of the hospital’s existing mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, many of which are at or beyond their useful life. These include boilers, chillers, cooling towers, pumps, water treatment systems, electrical panels, switchgear, and generators. A significant portion of the new systems will be located within the new addition but designed to serve both the new and existing portions of the hospital. This integrated approach avoids the need for separate future capital projects to replace these systems, resulting in a more efficient use of resources over time.

Third, existing utility lines, including gas and oxygen, must be relocated and upgraded to accommodate the new addition while maintaining continuous service to patients. Addressing these items as part of the current project is more efficient than deferring them and helps avoid disruption and cost in the future.

COMMERCIAL – HEALTHCARE – INDUSTRIAL – INSTITUTIONAL

GENERAL CONTRACTOR – CONSTRUCTION MANAGER – DESIGN BUILD



Quality People. Quality Projects.

The project also includes necessary infrastructure improvements that align with current healthcare construction and code standards and best practices. For example, both a second water service and a secondary fuel source for HVAC equipment will be added to enhance the hospital's ability to maintain operations during service disruptions, and additional sitework will be performed to accommodate required stormwater retention measures, ensuring compliance with applicable regulations and protecting both the facility and surrounding properties. These improvements are required to meet current standards and support uninterrupted operations.

Based on our experience constructing comparable healthcare projects, we believe the scope and costs are reasonable and necessary to meet identified needs, support continuous operations, and ensure efficient use of resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter and strongly support approval of this important project.

Sincerely,



Stephen E. Schmeling
President and CEO





900 N. Second Street • Rochelle, IL 61068
Ph. (815) 562-2181 • Fax (815) 562-5474

June 29, 2026

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board ("HFSRB")
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project No. 26-025 – Rochelle Community Hospital
Letters of Support

Dear Members of the HFSRB,

As Chief Executive Officer of Rochelle Community Hospital ("RCH"), I am writing in strong support of this project.

As a Critical Access Hospital, our emergency department ("ED") serves as a vital frontline resource for the community and is often the first place people turn for urgent, life-saving care. Since 2017, RCH has been designated an Acute Stroke Ready Hospital, which reflects the level of acuity we are equipped to handle and the importance of having reliable ED capacity to respond quickly when minutes matter.

In recent years, we have seen steady growth in our ED volume, including more patients presenting in acute behavioral health crisis and other high-acuity conditions that require extended monitoring. At the same time, it has become more difficult to transfer patients to facilities that can provide a higher level of specialized care due to capacity limitations at those facilities. As a result, our patients—especially those in behavioral health crisis—often remain in the ED for extended periods while waiting for placement. These stays can last many hours and, in some cases, several days.

This creates ongoing pressure on our department. Patients often remain in treatment rooms that are not optimally designed for the specialized needs of behavioral health patients, and those same rooms are then unavailable for other patients presenting with emergent conditions. This dynamic reduces operational efficiency and delays timely access to emergency care.

The proposed project will directly address these challenges. Expanding the ED—especially with rooms designed for behavioral health patients—will help us better manage patient flow, support a more appropriate care environment, and improve patient and staff experience. Without this investment, these capacity pressures will become harder to manage as demand increases.

The impact of timely emergency care is something we see every day. One example is Brian Johnson, retired Chief of the Rochelle Fire Department, whose story is shared in the enclosed RCH Community Newsletter. Mr. Johnson received rapid, life-saving care from our ED stroke team

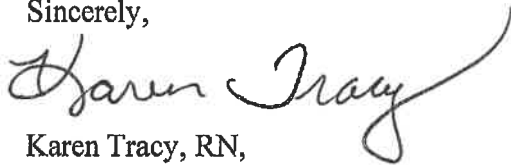
before being transferred for additional treatment. Stroke care depends on quick action, and his experience highlights how critical it is for our ED to be ready and able to respond without delay.

The planned relocation of Convenient Care will help by directing lower-acuity patients to the right setting, improving triage at the front end. But even with that change, it will not address the need for additional ED rooms—particularly for behavioral health patients who require longer stays and closer observation.

From an organizational and community perspective, this project is essential. It will help us improve access to care, manage growing demand, and ensure we continue to deliver high-quality emergency care to Rochelle and the surrounding communities.

For these reasons, I ask for your approval of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karen Tracy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Karen Tracy, RN,
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures – 2022 RCH Community Newsletter, pages 4-5.



CARRI WHITE, RN and
stroke survivor
BRIAN JOHNSON

Fast Response *Saves* } First Responder

STROKE CARE TEAM PROVIDES SPEEDY,
COMPASSIONATE CARE WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

When it comes to stroke care, time is of the essence. Healthcare providers must be quick-thinking and attentive in recognizing and diagnosing stroke symptoms — and providing much-needed care — but must also do so in a manner that's calming and comforting to patients.

Serving more than three decades as a first responder, lifelong Rochelle resident Brian Johnson understood the importance of both efficiency and compassion when it came to emergency care. But on a cold, winter night in 2013, he experienced firsthand just how important these qualities are.

Brian, a 34-year veteran and retired chief of the Rochelle Fire Department, doesn't remember much

about the events of January 31, 2013. In those early morning hours, his wife, Dawn, was awakened to the sound of Brian falling out of their bed. Unable to speak and with no motor function in his right side, Dawn immediately recognized he had suffered a stroke and called 911, after which he was transported by ambulance to the Rochelle Community Hospital Emergency Department.

"When I got there, the attitude was really good. They were taking care of me right away," Brian said. "Carri White, RN took care of me and she was next to my side most of the time during all the procedures. Dr. Christopher Berg was in the room right away, and of course, he knew what the stroke was. So, as soon

as Carri was done doing the vitals and all that, they took me to the CT scan right away to see what was going on in my brain."

Imaging revealed Brian had suffered a stroke on the left side of his brain — by the time he arrived at Rochelle Community Hospital, the clot was gone.

Acting quickly, the stroke team transferred him to a hospital in Winfield after less than an hour, Brian said.

"I was probably there for like 40 minutes. They didn't waste time getting me to the right place," Brian said. "So, they're pretty fast. Working as an EMT for 34 years, I took a lot of patients to the ER, so I knew the people — I was at ease. They were efficient. They didn't waste time. They took care of me."

Additionally, Brian said he was extremely grateful for the kind, empathetic care he received from Rochelle Community Hospital.

Brian said knowing he received compassionate care from people he knew helped put him at ease. "They knew me — that was one of the best things about it," he said. "I wasn't in a hospital where I didn't know anybody, so I had the same feeling other people have when you're at a smaller hospital like RCH. I just felt comfortable."

After completing rehabilitation in Rockford, Brian returned to work at the fire department until his

retirement in 2015. Though his speech and motor functions aren't quite at the level they were before the stroke, Brian said he's now doing very well.



BRIAN JOHNSON (right) and his son BEN — 2012

Brian credits Rochelle Community Hospital and the efficient, compassionate emergency care with not only his personal wellness, but also the health, safety, and well-being of the community.

"During my shifts before as chief, when I came in there, the providers were taking care of critical patients right away," Brian said. "I'd have people come in there with severe injuries and their staff is on the scene right away. They know what's going on and they do the best they can. They know right away whether to keep the patient in Rochelle or transfer that person."

As a father of two — including a second-generation firefighter — and grandfather of five, Brian calls Rochelle Community Hospital a vital community service that he entrusts to care for his entire family.

"We would never bypass that hospital for any reason," Brian said. "They know what they're doing. They're vital to the community — no doubt about that."





**Illinois
Department of
Natural
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Ogle County

Rochelle

CON - Partial Demolition, Rehabilitation for Relocation and Expansion of Emergency Department, Urgent Care, and Radiology

Rochelle Community Hospital - 900 N. 2nd St.

IHFSRB, SHPO Log #016042026

May 7, 2026

Rebecca Lindstrom

Ice Miller LLP

200 W. Madison, Suite 3500

Chicago, IL 60606-3417

This letter is to inform you that we have reviewed the information provided concerning the referenced project. Our review of the records indicates that no historic, architectural or properties exist within the project area. Our office did not conduct an archaeological review because no ground disturbing activity in included in the application.

Please retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with Section 4 of the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 3420/1 et. seq.). This clearance remains in effect for two years from date of issuance. It does not pertain to any discovery during construction, nor is it a clearance for purposes of the Illinois Human Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440).

If you have any further questions, please contact Steve Dasovich, Cultural Resources Manager, at 217/782-7441 or at Steve.Dasovich@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Carey L. Mayer, AIA

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

2. Narrative Description

In the space below, provide a brief narrative description of the project. Explain **WHAT** is to be done in **State Board defined terms**, **NOT WHY** it is being done. If the project site does NOT have a street address, include a legal description of the site. Include the rationale regarding the project's classification as substantive or non-substantive. If narrative description is longer than the space available, it must be put as a labeled attachment (Attachment Narrative Description).

Rochelle Community Hospital Association ("Rochelle Community Hospital" or "RCH" or "Applicant") is a 17-bed critical access hospital that provides inpatient, outpatient, and emergency care services. RCH is located in Rochelle, Illinois, a community of approximately 9,500 residents located 108 miles west of Chicago in Ogle County, which is designated as a rural area by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.

The proposed project is a much-needed, carefully planned modernization initiative designed to address functional limitations and infrastructure issues associated with a dated hospital campus and better align existing services with current standards of care and community needs. The project includes the relocation and expansion of the existing 6-station Emergency Department ("ED") into a 10-station ED that is appropriately sized to better accommodate current utilization, future demand, and behavioral health needs in the community. To support emergency services and maintain stroke readiness, the Radiology Department will be relocated adjacent to the ED, allowing for improved care coordination and replacement of an outdated nuclear medicine machine that could not otherwise be accommodated within the size constraints of the current department. The existing Convenient Care will also be relocated adjacent to the ED, enabling shared staffing for triage functions and improving access to walk-in care for non-emergent conditions. In addition, the Laboratory Department will be relocated and expanded to provide adequately sized clinical and support spaces that enhance workflow efficiency and support modern diagnostic capabilities. The project includes removal of an existing aging building (more than 80 years old) on the hospital campus to allow for construction of a new structure on the same site, which will house the relocated ED, Radiology Department, Convenient Care, and Laboratory Department. The project further reconfigures campus access to improve wayfinding and operational efficiency by establishing a clearly defined primary public entrance for hospital services and a separate access point dedicated to materials management and deliveries. The majority of the hospital's infrastructure systems are beyond their useful life and in need of major upgrades or replacement. The project will proactively address these conditions while ensuring compliance with current code requirements, accessibility standards, and applicable environmental regulations. Collectively, these improvements will modernize critical hospital infrastructure, enhance patient access and safety, and ensure the facility is positioned to meet current and future community needs.

The total project cost is \$48,579,513.

The project is classified as "non-substantive" under the regulations of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board ("HFSRB").

Facility Bed Capacity and Utilization

Complete the following chart, as applicable. Complete a separate chart for each facility that is a part of the project and insert the chart after this page. Provide the existing bed capacity and utilization data for the latest **Calendar Year for which data is available**. Include **observation days in the patient day totals for each bed service**. Any bed capacity discrepancy from the Inventory will result in the application being deemed **incomplete**.

FACILITY NAME: Rochelle Community Hospital		CITY: Rochelle			
REPORTING PERIOD DATES: From: 1/1/2025 to: 12/31/2025					
Category of Service	Authorized Beds	Admissions	Patient Days	Bed Changes	Proposed Beds
Medical/Surgical	13	263	751	N/A	N/A
Obstetrics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pediatrics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Intensive Care	4	0	0	N/A	N/A
Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Acute/Chronic Mental Illness	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Neonatal Intensive Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
General Long-Term Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Specialized Long-Term Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term Acute Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other (identify)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTALS:	17	263	751	N/A	N/A

Attachment 12 - Purpose of Project

Background, Planning Area/Service Area, & Identified Community Health Needs

Rochelle Community Hospital (“RCH”) is a 17-bed Critical Access Hospital (“CAH”) located in Rochelle, Illinois, a community of approximately 9,500 residents in Ogle County, 108 miles west of Chicago. The service area is federally designated as both a Primary Care and Mental Health Health Professional Shortage Area (“HPSA”) and is recognized as rural by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.¹ These designations underscore the limited availability of healthcare resources and the essential role RCH plays in ensuring access to care.

While physically located in Rochelle, RCH serves a broader regional population, including Ogle and Lee Counties and portions of DeKalb County. As documented in RCH’s 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (“CHNA”),² approximately 70% of patient volume originates from Rochelle and more than 90% from Ogle and Lee Counties. The service area reflects a diverse demographic profile with significant variation in healthcare needs. Notably, while older adults represent 20% of the population, the cohort aged 75 and older is the fastest growing segment, with projected growth of 16% over five years, indicating increasing demand for complex and acute care services.

Consistent findings from the RCH CHNA, supporting qualitative and quantitative analyses,³ and county-level assessments in Ogle and Lee Counties⁴ identify three primary and interrelated community health priorities:

- Behavioral health, including mental health and substance use disorders
- Access to healthcare services
- Chronic disease and obesity

These needs are particularly pronounced in this rural and underserved region, where provider shortages, limited specialty services, and transportation barriers constrain timely access to care and place increased reliance on RCH as a primary point of service.

RCH Campus History, Existing Conditions, and Operational Constraints

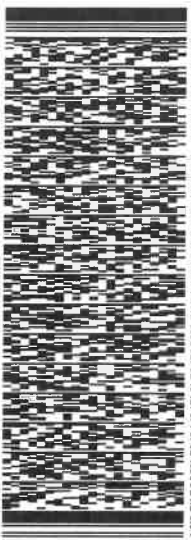
RCH was established in 1913, with the current campus at 900 North Second Street developed in 1944 and subsequently expanded over several decades. Key additions include a 1968 expansion housing the existing Laboratory and Radiology Departments, a 1990s addition for Convenient Care, a 2003 addition for the existing Emergency Department, and a medical office building constructed in 2016. While these expansions have enabled RCH to grow with its community, they have also resulted in a facility composed of multiple construction vintages integrated over more than 80 years (see image below).

¹ HRSA HPSA Designation and FORHP Rural Designation, **Attachment 12-A**.

² RCH 2025 CHNA, **Attachment 12-B**.

³ April 2022 report detailing focus group findings, key stakeholder interviews, and secondary data analysis, included as **Attachment 12-C**.

⁴ Ogle County 2025 CHNA and IPLAN 2020, **Attachment 12-D**, and Lee County Health Department IPLAN 2021 and CHNA and 2025 CHNA, **Attachment 12-E**.

TO JOHN KNIERY -ADMINISTRATOR IL HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REV 525 W JEFFERSON STREET 2ND FLOO		ORIGIN ID: CHIA (312) 726-1567 REBECCA LINDSTROM ICE MILLER LLP 200 W. MADISON STREET SUITE 3500 CHICAGO, IL 60606 UNITED STATES US	SHIP DATE: 29 JUN 26 ACTWTG1: 0.50 LB CAD: 268102962F-AP12208 BILL SENDER
TRK# 8737 3736 6587 0201	TUE - 30 JUN 10:30A PRIORITY OVERNIGHT	SPRINGFIELD IL 62761 (217) 782-3516 REF: 995000 00001 10239 DEPT:	
			
XW SPILG IL-US SPIA 62761 STL	REL # 3783346	J261026012001uv	58KJ2JDC4A484B

FOLD on this line and place in shipping pouch with bar code and delivery address visible

1. Fold the first printed page in half and use as the shipping label.
2. Place the label in a waybill pouch and affix it to your shipment so that the barcode portion of the label can be read and scanned.
3. Keep the second page as a receipt for your records. The receipt contains the terms and conditions of shipping and information useful for tracking your package.

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