



Text-A-Tip

Fact Sheet

History:

The Text-A-Tip Initiative is a 24/7 anonymous text message-based crisis hotline founded by Linking Efforts Against Drugs (LEAD) in January 2014 to serve the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, IL communities. The program has been extremely well received and has expanded to include all communities within Lake and McHenry counties, and will soon be available in cities across the country.

Purpose:

Text-A-Tip provides a 24/7 anonymous text-communication system to youth needing immediate mental health assistance for themselves or a friend.

Members of the community can send a text message to a dedicated number and receive an immediate response from a licensed clinician while remaining completely anonymous. The anonymity makes it a comfortable place for students to share and provides a safe outlet for voicing concerns about themselves and others.

How it Works:

Each community receives a unique ID which routes messages, in real-time, to a local response team. Simply text this code and your message to 274-637 and you will receive a response within minutes. Those unsure of their community code should use the code 847HELP. All messages are sent through a cloaking server in order to keep the communication completely anonymous.

Response Team:

The Response Team consists of Licensed/Certified Mental Health Professionals who are on-call 24/7 to respond to messages. On-call clinicians are responsible for responding appropriately to each communication and for following up whenever necessary. In the case of a life-threatening condition or criminal activity, emergency responders will be notified.

Who is Currently Using Text-A-Tip?

Currently, Text-A-Tip lines are open in the following communities: Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, Highland Park, Deerfield, Fort Sheridan, Bannockburn, Highwood, and the entirety of McHenry County, IL. Text-A-Tip will be launching in Lake County, IL in late September 2015, and in multiple states across the country during the 2015-2016 school year.

Partners:

Community Partners include all local school districts in operational communities; local municipalities and police departments; the Lake County Board; the McHenry County Community Foundation; The Child, Adolescent and Family Recovery Center; the Jordan Michael Filler Foundation; and others.

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