Community Threads Program: Guidelines
2026-2027 Pilot

Purpose

1. Provide New Trier Township individuals and families in financial need the opportunity to shop for free at the Winnetka Thrift Shop.
2. Promote dignity, inclusion, and community support, ensuring that these families and individuals have access to basic necessities.

Collaborators

1. New Trier Township Agency Partners: referral network
2. New Trier Township: funder
3. Winnetka Thrift Shop: clothing and home goods, administration
4. Counseling Center of the North Shore: program grantee

Guidelines

1. Community Threads provides families and individuals with a 6-month opportunity to shop for $150 worth of clothing and household items at the Winnetka Thrift Shop.
2. New Trier Township Agency Partners will refer families and individuals that they serve and who are:
   a) residents of New Trier Township,
   b) who are in financial distress and
   c) income qualify.
3. Income qualification is determined by the size of the household and household income at or below 250% of the Federal 2026 Poverty Level as follows:

2026 Poverty Guidelines, Federal

Household / Family Size	250% of Federal Poverty Level
1	$ 39,900
2	$ 54,100
3	$ 68,300
4	$ 82,500
5	$ 96,700
6	$ 110,900
7	$ 125,100

Referral Process

1. Each New Trier Township Agency Partner is provided with 2 Community Threads shopping cards for referrals to the Winnetka Thrift Shop along with a brochure to give to the individual or family that they are referring. Shopping cards are individually numbered and can be reused by the referring agency for the next household. Also, you can request additional shopping cards from Elana and Dalia, see below.
2. The Community Threads shopping card has no monetary value outside of the program and is simply a means to access the program. It is not a gift card and cannot be used outside of the Winnetka Thrift Shop.
3. When making a referral, please email the following staff with the first and last name and household size of the person(s) you are referring:
   a. Winnetka Thrift Shop Manager, Elana Shein: elana.shein@ccns.org
   b. CCNS Associate Director of Development & Communications, Dalia Aragon: dalia.aragon@ccns.org
4. The individual or family can shop anytime they like when the Winnetka Thrift Shop is open, Monday through Saturday, 10:00am – 5:00pm.
   992 Green Bay Rd, Winnetka, in the Hubbard Woods District
   They can present the shopping card at the register for checkout.
5. Each household shops for free up to $150, and they have 6 months to use up the funds. Winnetka Thrift Shop staff will keep track of how much has been spent and collect the shopping card when the $150 limit is reached. The card will be returned to the referring agency for the next referral.

Background

The Winnetka Thrift Shop is owned and operated by Counseling Center of the North Shore, a nonprofit mental health center. Over the years, both have collaborated with New Trier Township to help individuals and families shop for free for basic necessities at the Winnetka Thrift Shop. This pilot Community Threads Program extends this resource to New Trier Township grantees and the people they serve. This year the funding is meant to reach 24 households.

- Winnetka Thrift Shop, 992 Green Bay Rd, Winnetka IL 60093
- Shopping hours: Monday through Saturday, 10:00am – 5:00pm
- Winnetka Thrift Shop: https://www.winnetkathriftshop.org/
- Community Threads Program: https://www.ccns.org/community-threads.html