



NEWS RELEASE

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Common Ground forced to end adult crisis services at the Resource & Crisis Center in Pontiac due to lack of funding

PONTIAC, Mich. – Due to Oakland Community Health Network’s (OCHN) recent actions and decisions related to crisis services, Common Ground has been left with no option but to end adult crisis services at the Resource & Crisis Center (RCC) in Pontiac today, January 29, 2026.

The situation escalated because OCHN failed to issue multiple monthly payments to Common Ground. OCHN informed Common Ground on January 27, 2026 that they did not intend to provide these payments, citing “outstanding cost settlement reviews.

“This outcome is devastating and was entirely avoidable, said Heather Rae, MA, LLP, president and CEO of Common Ground. “Quite simply, OCHN has decided to stop paying Common Ground for crisis services, and we cannot continue operating with an unsustainable financial deficit.

“This represents a failure of OCHN’s leadership and fiduciary responsibility to the public,” Rae continued. “During a fragile transition that directly affects lifesaving crisis services, OCHN chose to withhold hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments to the very provider still delivering care. Rather than ensuring continuity of services and protecting vulnerable residents, OCHN prioritized financial disputes over immediate public safety. Any concerns about overpayment or cost settlement should have been addressed after services were stabilized, not by cutting off funding in the middle of an active crisis system. Responsible stewardship would have meant keeping providers whole during the transition and resolving financial questions through standard audit and reconciliation processes afterward—without placing patients, staff, and the broader emergency response system at risk.”

The nonpayment has forced Common Ground to end its adult crisis services at the RCC, effective today. This is not a decision Common Ground ever wanted to make, and it is not one it initiated. Common Ground cannot legally, ethically, or financially continue to provide critical services without being paid for them. OCHN’s actions—and inactions—have left no other viable option.

Common Ground serves more than 8,000 people each year at the Resource & Crisis Center. While OCHN has publicly stated that they are prepared to assume services without disruption, Common Ground has expressed deep concern about the immediate strain this will place on law enforcement, emergency departments, hospitals, and other county systems that are already stretched thin.

“No public mental health system should operate in a way that knowingly jeopardizes essential crisis services or withholds payment from providers delivering those services,” Rae added. “We are profoundly worried about the consequences for people in crisis, for our staff, for first responders, and for Oakland County’s entire crisis response system.”

Despite Common Ground’s ending their crisis services at the RCC, Common Ground’s commitment to help, healing, and recovery remains unwavering. Common Ground will continue to operate and serve the community. For more than five decades, its dedicated team has helped people move from crisis to hope, and that commitment will not change. Common Ground is proud to be part of Michigan’s safety net, and will continue working to ensure access to care for all.

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About Common Ground:

Common Ground is a nonprofit organization that has served Oakland County for more than 50 years, responding to community mass violence events across our state and offering a range of behavioral health crisis services, including behavioral health urgent care, crisis intervention, mobile crisis, 988, and crisis stabilization services. Learn more at <https://commongroundhelps.org/>.