

# Cook County at a Glance

# 2019



Toni Preckwinkle  
Cook County Board President

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# A Letter from the President

February 14, 2020

To the residents of Cook County:

Cook County government plays a pivotal role in serving and supporting the needs of the 5.2 million residents of Cook County. We oversee the criminal justice system, provide healthcare to all regardless of an individual's ability to pay, build and maintain critical infrastructure and administer property taxes. Under my administration, the Offices Under the President (OUP) provides many services to residents, as well as supports fellow Cook County offices in achieving operational excellence. As we do every year, we would like to take this time to reflect on notable achievements, improved services and operational milestones in 2019.



In 2018, we released the *Cook County Policy Roadmap: Five-Year Strategic Plan for Offices Under the President*. The *Policy Roadmap* guides all our work, centering equity to ensure that all Cook County residents have opportunities to prosper and reach their full potential no matter their race, gender, geography or socio-economic status. This ambitious plan is organized into six policy priorities: health and wellness, economic development, criminal justice, environmental sustainability, public infrastructure and good government.

This year, as we put the plan into action, we embarked on several ambitious initiatives.

To ensure all Cook County residents are counted in the 2020 Census, Cook County established the Complete Count Census Commission. To support this critical initiative, we have committed funds in FY2019 and FY2020 to conduct outreach to communities and populations in Cook County that are traditionally undercounted by the Census, including immigrants, non-English speakers, Latinx residents, African-American residents, LGBTQ+ residents, seniors, children, and people with disabilities. With U.S. congressional representation, federal funding and other important resources on the line, we can't afford anything less than a complete count.

In September, we held our first ever Racial Equity Week in Cook County to convene residents and partners and discuss why government must use an equity lens in policy and practice. As part of the week's activities, I delivered an address at the City Club of Chicago on the need to advance racial equity in Cook County, co-hosted a forum for residents in partnership with Chicago United for Equity (CUE), and showcased projects by CUE Fellows to advance equity in government. I look forward to continuing to close the gap and address historical inequities as we carry out the strategies outlined in the Policy Roadmap.

We've also amplified our economic development work in the south suburbs with the launch of the Southland Development Authority. We launched this Authority in November 2019 to maximize investments, catalyze growth and increase opportunities for development in the Southland.

The following sections highlight just some of our successes in 2019. We look forward to continuing our work to create a safe, thriving, and sustainable Cook County on behalf of residents in 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Toni Preckwinkle'.

Toni Preckwinkle  
Cook County Board President

# Cook County Policy Roadmap

We identified six policy priorities for OUP to concentrate its efforts on through the *Policy Roadmap* planning process. A central theme throughout our policy priorities is the commitment to ensuring Cook County is a welcoming community and can reach all of its residents, including those who are often marginalized. We will foster communities that are healthy, vital, safe and thriving, sustainable, smart and open.

Given OUP's role in supporting individuals and communities throughout Cook County, the first five policy priorities relate directly to the services we provide to residents. To achieve a high standard of efficiency and excellence, our sixth policy priority describes how we deliver services to residents.

Together, these policy priorities create the comprehensive agenda OUP has implemented to provide innovative and essential services for residents in an effective, efficient manner and ensure Cook County is an exceptional place to live, work, play and visit.

## Healthy Communities

### *Health and Wellness*

Integrating health and social services, addressing the social determinants of health and improving the health and wellness of County employees.

## Vital Communities

### *Economic Development*

Creating and retaining jobs, developing industry-sector strategies, supporting workforce training and development, quality housing, safety net services and community and municipal infrastructure investments.

## Safe and Thriving Communities

### *Criminal Justice*

Implementing violence reduction strategies proven to increase community safety, advocating for sustainable reforms within the criminal justice system and investing in community-based services for communities and residents.

## Sustainable Communities

### *Environmental Sustainability*

Prioritizing environmental justice, addressing climate change, investing in clean energy and green jobs and creating equitable access to open spaces.

## Smart Communities

### *Public Infrastructure*

Maximizing the benefits of County buildings, improving transportation systems and managing enterprise technology services.

## Open Communities

### *Good Government*

Achieving operational excellence by being accountable to residents, investing in our workforce and continuously improving the effectiveness of County services.

## Goal

Improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of Cook County residents and communities.

## Procuring Healthy, Sustainable Food at Cook County

Cook County became the third local government in the U.S. to approve a resolution promoting the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) in May 2018, and the Cook County Department of Public Health officially kicked off the Cook County Good Food Task Force in May 2019. GFPP leverages the power of procurement to advance a healthy, sustainable and equitable food system and promote good food for all. Within Cook County government, Cook County Health, the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center and the Sheriff's Office are the largest purchasers of food and beverages, spending more than **\$15 million** and serving an estimated **8 million** meals each year.



Cook County Health team at the opening of the new Arlington Heights Health Center in January 2019. The 25,000 square foot facility includes 25 exam rooms, dental space, an on-site lab and bilingual staff for Spanish speakers.

## Tackling Food and Housing Insecurity Through Strategic Partnerships

**600,000+**  
Pounds of fresh produce  
distributed to  
**30,855**  
individuals  
at **13** Community Health  
Centers since 2015.

Cook County Health (CCH) expanded their partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to distribute fresh produce at all CCH community health centers – to date, over **600,000** pounds of fresh produce have been distributed at CCH health centers to food insecure patients and community members.

CCH is also engaged in efforts to identify and address housing insecurity. CCH is a key partner and investor in the City-County Flexible Housing Pool, which connects persistent users of crisis systems, including emergency departments and jails, with access to permanent supportive housing. CCH also partnered with Housing Forward on several state and federal grants to connect patients and CountyCare members with housing units and supportive services.

## Addressing the Opioid Crisis

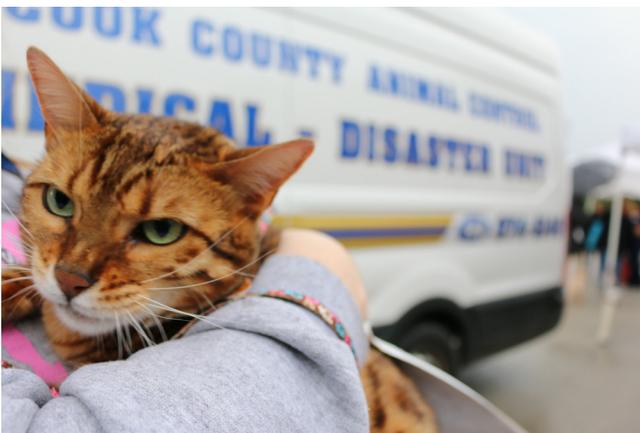
**\$4.7M** in opioid grants

The Cook County Department of Public Health was awarded **\$4.7 million** in opioid grants in 2019 to prevent opioid overdose deaths and increase access to and use of evidence-based substance use treatment programs. These grants will fund training for suburban Cook County law enforcement and community partners, support deflection programs and community-based treatment providers, and fund public education and outreach.

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## Offering Low-Cost Vaccination Clinics Across the County

Cook County's Department of Animal and Rabies Control offered low-cost rabies vaccinations at mobile clinics throughout Cook County to dogs, cats and ferrets in the summer of 2019. More than **50,000** animals have been vaccinated since the program began in 2006.



*This annoyed feline was vaccinated at a clinic in Brookfield, IL in June 2019.*



The Medical Examiner's Office hosted their third annual Missing Person's Day in Cook County in May 2019. Those with friends or family missing submitted DNA samples, records and other items to aid in the search for loved ones.

## Improving Services and Receiving Highest Accreditation

The Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) completed **90 percent** of autopsy reports within **60 days**, a standard set by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), improving service by providing families with timely reports.

The Medical Examiner's Office received International Standardization accreditation for both forensic testing and forensic inspection from the American National Standards Institute. The MEO is also the only fully accredited medical examiner's or coroner's office in Illinois accredited by NAME and the only office to have all three accreditations in the nation.

## Goal

Pursue inclusive economic and community growth by supporting residents, growing businesses, attracting investment and nurturing talent.

## Spurring Economic Development Through Tax Incentives

The Bureau of Economic Development (BED) helped **48** businesses apply for tax incentives, representing **\$165 million** in estimated capital investment, an estimated creation of **910** jobs and estimated retention of **951** jobs in 2019.

**48** tax incentives  
**\$165M** in capital investment  
**1,861** jobs created and retained



President Preckwinkle spoke at the launch of the Southland Development Authority at Thornton Distilling Company on November 19, 2019.

## Launching the Southland Development Authority

BED's investment and leadership fueled the November 2019 launch of the Southland Development Authority (SDA) to drive the strategic, large-scale investment necessary to propel Cook County's south suburbs forward. Cook County's south suburbs were once the heart of the Chicagoland economy and the Southland Development Authority brings together community, industry and government to re-establish the south suburbs as an economic powerhouse of the Chicago region. Cook County has pledged **\$300,000** in FY2019 and FY2020 for the initiative. Investing in the SDA is especially significant because the region's population alone would make it the **35<sup>th</sup>** largest city in the US, with **\$16 billion** in economic output.

## Population Comparison: Cook County's South Suburbs and Major U.S. Cities



Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-2018 5-year estimates.

## Expanding Affordable Housing and Homeownership Opportunities

The Bureau of Economic Development funded six projects through federal HOME funds to provide affordable housing in 2019. In addition to BED's efforts, the Cook County Landbank Authority (CCLBA) and Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) have also celebrated 2019 milestones.

In 2019, the Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) acquired **597** vacant properties and celebrated their **500<sup>th</sup>** home rehab in November. **525** community developers work with the CCLBA, the majority of whom are Black or Latinx. Since 2014, CCLBA has brought **\$71 million** back into communities through rehabbed properties, and has exceeded their **75%** homeownership goal: **82%** of all reoccupied properties have been acquired for affordable homeownership.

The Housing Authority of Cook County helped **17,563** families access affordable housing in 2019 via their voucher programs. An additional **1,800** families found housing through public housing and rental subsidies.

**\$7.8M** in federal HOME funding across  
**6** housing projects provided  
**462** units of affordable housing



In October 2019, Vanessa Johnson (above, left) won a newly-rehabbed home in Washington Heights as part of the Cook County Land Bank's third Home Giveaway, a program sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. The program raises awareness of the Land Bank's Homebuyer Direct Program, which rehabs vacant properties and sells them to residents as affordable homes.

# Safe and Thriving Communities

Criminal Justice



## Goal

Create safe communities and an equitable and fair justice system for all residents.

## Justice Advisory Council Expands Grant Program, Engages Community

**58** Providers serving all 17 districts

**\$5.5M** Total grants given

In addition to the Justice Advisory Council's (JAC) continual funding in violence prevention, recidivism reduction and restorative justice, this year the JAC also focused on services to support residents who are returning to their communities after being involved with the justice system. This support comes through a new JAC grant for returning residents and a federal grant the JAC received and is implementing in conjunction with the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership. The JAC also began distributing grants to help pregnant and post-partum individuals in detention facilities in 2019.

The JAC leads Cook County's community engagement efforts as part of the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge.



President Preckwinkle visited several JAC grantees, including Umoja Student Development Corporation (above) where she participated in a peace circle in May 2019.

Through the Safety and Justice Challenge, Cook County has dramatically reduced the Cook County Jail population without negatively impacting public safety, and now provides more community-based treatments and alternatives to incarceration. The JAC implements the community engagement strategy of this work with a racial equity lens and has made efforts to meaningfully include community voice in various points of policy decision-making. This engagement strategy specifically addresses the disproportionate incarceration of Black and Latinx individuals and the impact of mass incarceration on communities of color.

## Investing in Communities with Justice Assistance Grants

The Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (DEMRS) committed to increasing its investments in community-based organizations, anti-violence initiatives and reentry services. DEMRS educates sister agencies and external partners about funding opportunities for projects aimed at community engagement, law enforcement education and justice-involved communities. DEMRS funded **\$122,000** to **five** programs in 2019 through their Justice Assistance Grants and aims to fund **six** programs in 2020.

# Sustainable Communities

Environmental Sustainability

## Goal

Support healthy, resilient communities that thrive economically, socially and environmentally.

## Generating Savings and Sustainability with the Green Buildings Program

**\$5.7M** avoided energy costs, with energy savings of **413,646** MBTUs, the equivalent annual energy usage of **5,300** single family homes.

The Green Buildings Program, overseen by the Bureau of Asset Management, continues to improve energy, water, waste and technology use in all Cook County facilities. This initiative not only minimizes environmental impacts, but also saves taxpayer dollars. In 2019, the Green Buildings Program established a sustainability index for all County facilities, established recycling standards for the new Workplace Strategy and Design Guidelines, and began implementing building automation systems to generate additional energy savings.

## Redeveloping Brownfields in Suburban Cook County

The Department of Environment and Sustainability has launched a Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund of over **\$750,000** to redevelop and reuse sites in Bellwood, Maywood, Schiller Park, Franklin Park and other south suburban communities. Assessing and redeveloping brownfields promotes sustainability and economic development by cleaning up hazardous materials and bringing the sites back to usefulness so that they can be developed.



President Preckwinkle toured Cook County's sustainability demonstrations with Jamie Meyers, Energy Manager for the Bureau of Asset Management, in the lobby of the County Building during Earth Week in April 2019.

# Smart Communities

Public Infrastructure



## Goal

Provide an innovative infrastructure that will change how we live, work and connect.

## Advancing Equitable Transportation Projects with Invest in Cook Grants

**\$8.5M** in grants given, leveraging an additional  
**\$33.8M** in other funds for over  
**\$42M** in project activity and  
**15** construction projects.

Invest in Cook continued to advance transportation projects in 2019 that align with the policy priorities outlined in *Connecting Cook County: Long Range Transportation Plan*. In 2019, Invest in Cook awarded **\$8.5 million** in grants and leveraged an additional **\$33.8 million** in other funds to enable over **\$42 million** in project activity, including **15** construction projects. Invest in Cook puts a premium on equal access to opportunity and will continue to position local and regional projects for advancement with local, state and federal grant opportunities. Since its inception in 2017, more than half the projects that have received funding have been located in low- and moderate-income communities. These transportation infrastructure investments provide foundational elements for community and economic growth.



Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) partners broke ground on the Argo Connections (B9) Project in Summit, IL in April 2019. The project will be completed by 2021 and serve industry and commuters in southwest Cook County.

**Faster daily travel times for**  
**116** freight trains  
**6** Metra trains  
**10** Amtrak trains  
**in the rail corridor.**

## Upgrading County Phone Systems

**8,700** upgraded phones deployed  
**1064** analog lines migrated to digital

The Bureau of Technology reached the halfway milestone of a massive five-year undertaking to upgrade all aging Cook County analog phone lines with Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) lines—a modernization project that will vastly improve internal communications and generate significant cost and energy savings by running voice communications through the same lines as internet service.

# Open Communities

Good Government



## Goal

Ensure that Cook County provides responsive, transparent services and develops a thriving, professional workforce that reflects the communities served.

## Empowering Employees with Innovative Trainings

**13** ROI trainings in 2019

**207** employees trained

Launched at the beginning of FY2019, the Office of Research, Operations and Innovation (ROI) facilitates trainings and collaborates with County agencies to implement creative, data-driven solutions to improve service delivery. Completing ROI training equips employees to apply standardized methodology and tools to identify and eliminate waste and make improvements to their existing processes. These process improvements will result in hard and soft savings, improved efficiencies and improved customer experience. In FY2020, ROI will train over **500 employees** in Offices Under the President.

(Right) An overview of the FY2020 Adopted Budget. View details and interactive data visualizations on the new interactive budget website. Full budget information and a link to the interactive site can be found at [www.cookcountyil.gov/budget](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/budget).

## Increasing Transparency with GIS and Open Data

The Bureau of Technology celebrated several milestones in 2019. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) launched new interactive maps as part of Cook County's 2020 Census efforts.

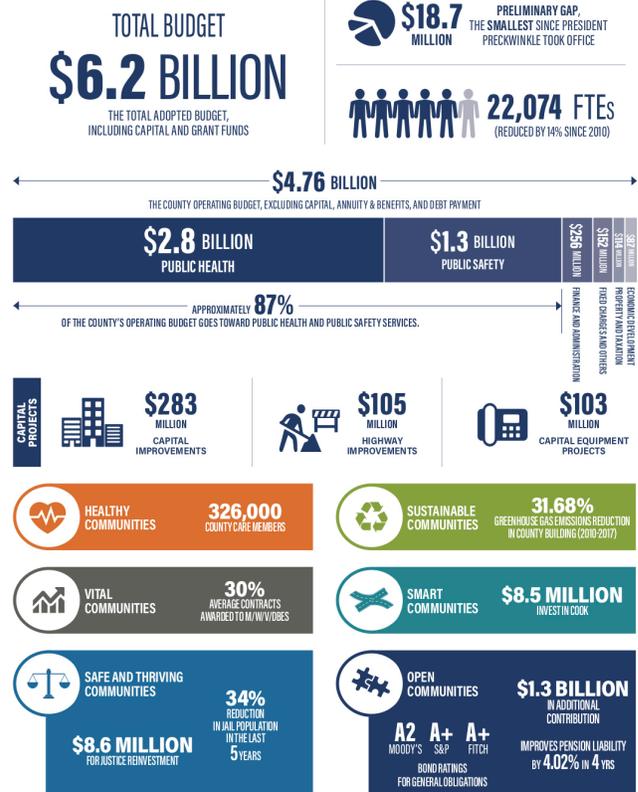
View the maps here:

[www.maps.cookcountyil.gov/census2010mailreturnrate](http://www.maps.cookcountyil.gov/census2010mailreturnrate)

The Data Analytics team helped create a new interactive online experience for the Cook County budget and launched groundbreaking public data releases with the Assessor's Office and the Comptroller. Looking ahead to 2020, Cook County's Open Performance website at [performance.cookcountyil.gov](http://performance.cookcountyil.gov) will debut department-level public dashboards tracking targets and data for Key Performance Indicators. These dashboards will provide greater transparency than ever before into key operations for all Offices Under the President.

### COOK COUNTY

### FY2020 BUDGET AT GLANCE



# Mission

To serve as a good steward of public resources by building equitable and sustainable communities for all residents.

# Vision

To be a leader in building vibrant, sustainable and inclusive communities where people want to live, learn, work and play.

# Values

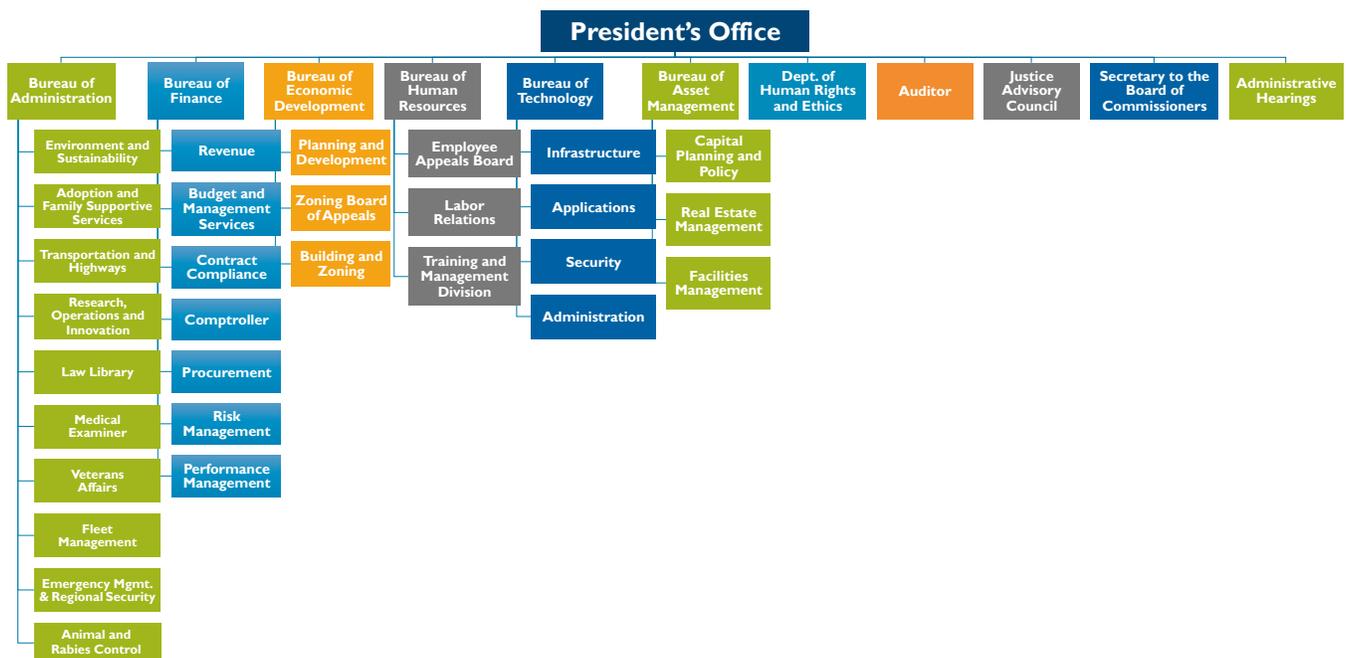
**Equity • Engagement • Excellence**

# Diversity and Inclusion Statement

We believe in the dignity and worth of all people and the strength in the diversity of all perspectives.

Cook County commits to cultivating equity, inclusion and opportunity within County government and the diverse communities it serves—where we celebrate employees, residents and visitors and welcome diversity of perspectives. Empowered by an inclusive workforce, Cook County is dedicated to equity and fairness in governance—in all its forms—to strengthen and serve our communities to the best of our abilities.

## Organizational Chart Offices Under the President





Toni Preckwinkle  
President  
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Alma E. Anaya  
Luis Arroyo, Jr.  
Scott R. Britton  
John P. Daley  
Dennis Deer  
Bridget Degnen  
Bridget Gainer  
Brandon Johnson  
Bill Lowry  
Donna Miller  
Stanley Moore  
Kevin B. Morrison  
Sean M. Morrison  
Peter N. Silvestri  
Deborah Sims  
Larry Suffredin  
Jeffrey R. Tobolski

## Connect With Us



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