



DUPAGE COUNTY

2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



Daniel J. Cronin, Chairman, DuPage County Board
Sam Tornatore, Chairman, Legislative Committee



GOVERNMENT PROFILE

DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD



DuPage County Board

Daniel J. Cronin **R**

Chairman
DuPage County Board

(630) 407-6060 • www.dupageco.org/cobrd



Jack T. Knuepfer Administration Building

District 1



Donald E. Puchalski **R**

Addison



Ashley J. Selmon **D**

Addison



Sam Tornatore **R**

Roselle

District 2



Elizabeth Chaplin **D**

Downers Grove



Peter "Pete" DiCianni **R**

Elmhurst



Sean Noonan **R**

Elmhurst

District 3



Greg Hart **R**

Hinsdale



Brian Krajewski **R**

Downers Grove



Julie Renehan **D**

Hinsdale

District 4



Grant Eckhoff **R**

Wheaton



Tim Elliott **R**

Glen Ellyn



Mary FitzGerald Ozog **D**

Glen Ellyn

District 5



Sadia Covert **D**

Naperville



Dawn DeSart **D**

Aurora



James Healy **R**

Naperville

District 6



Robert Larsen **R**

Wheaton



Sheila Rutledge **D**

West Chicago



James F. Zay **R**

Carol Stream



DUPAGE COUNTY

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Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 407-6500 • www.dupageco.org

GOVERNMENT PROFILE

COUNTY FACTS

DuPage County, Illinois

Incorporated January 1, 1838

Cities located entirely or partly in DuPage:

Aurora, Batavia, Chicago, Darien, Elmhurst, Naperville, Oakbrook Terrace, St. Charles, Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton and Wood Dale

Villages located entirely or partly in DuPage:

Addison, Bartlett, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Bolingbrook, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Elk Grove Village, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lemont, Lisle, Lombard, Oak Brook, Roselle, Schaumburg, Villa Park, Wayne, Westmont, Willowbrook, Winfield and Woodridge

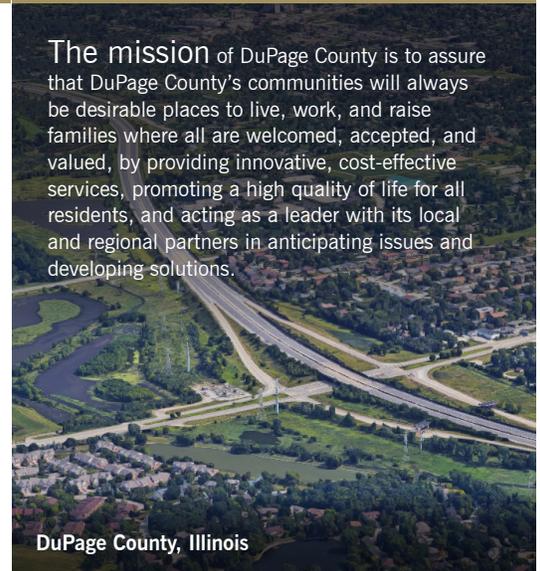
Unincorporated communities

Cloverdale, Eola, Flowerfield, Keeneyville, Lakewood, Medinah, Palisades, Swift, and York Center

Townships:

Addison, Bloomingdale, Downers Grove, Lisle, Milton, Naperville, Wayne, Winfield and York

The mission of DuPage County is to assure that DuPage County's communities will always be desirable places to live, work, and raise families where all are welcomed, accepted, and valued, by providing innovative, cost-effective services, promoting a high quality of life for all residents, and acting as a leader with its local and regional partners in anticipating issues and developing solutions.



DuPage County, Illinois

Demographic Information¹

- Population: 928,589
- Total Population: 928,589
- Incorporated Population: 815,091
- Unincorporated Population: 113,498



Race, Ethnicity, Gender²

- Caucasian: 67.0%
- African American: 5.2%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.4%
- Asian: 12.1%
- Hispanic or Latino: 14.4%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.1%
- Other: 0.8%
- Male: 49.1%
- Female: 50.9%



Education Attainment³

- High School Graduate: 18.3%
- Bachelor's Degree: 29.4%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 19.4%
- Percent High School degree or higher: 92.6%
- Percent Bachelor's degree or higher: 48.8%



Colleges and Universities

- College of DuPage
- Wheaton College
- Benedictine University
- Elmhurst College
- North Central College
- Midwestern University
- National University of Health Sciences
- Northern Baptist Theological Seminary



Area Information⁴

- Persons per Square Miles: 2,799.8
- Undeveloped Land: 4.0% or 8,612 acres
- Open Space: 20% or 443,060 acres
- Total Area⁵: 336.36 sq. miles
- Total Incorporated Area: 246.26 sq. miles
- Total Unincorporated Area: 90.1 sq. miles
- District 1: 53.95 sq. miles
- District 2: 51.01 sq. miles
- District 3: 52.96 sq. miles
- District 4: 39.25 sq. miles
- District 5: 49.41 sq. miles
- District 6: 89.78 sq. miles



Financial Information⁶

- County Revenue: \$476.2 million
- Sales Tax Revenue: \$102.6 million
- Property Tax Revenue⁷: \$50.3 million
- Local Gas Tax Revenue: \$20.5 million
- Income Tax Revenue: \$10.1 million
- Funds on Hand: \$45.6 million
- Other⁸: \$183.8 million



Economic Information⁹

- Unemployment Rate: 2.5%
- Number of Jobs: 650,761
- Office Space Vacancy Rate: 13.9%
- Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: 5.1%
- Bond rating: AAA / AA+¹⁰
- Housing Units: 361,429¹¹
- Median Household Income: \$88,711¹²



¹ 2019 U.S. Census Estimates
² 2019 U.S. Census Estimates.
³ 2019 U.S. Census Estimates
⁴ DuPage GIS Map Book (2019)

⁵ DuPage GIS Map Book (2019)
⁶ DuPage County FY2020 Approved Budget
⁷ 2019 County revenue minus Health Department tax levy
⁸ Among which includes Care Center's patient care, water and sewer service charges, highway motor fuel taxes, IMRF/social security indirect cost reimbursement, subsidy transfers, interfund transfers, and more.

⁹ Choose DuPage
¹⁰ Maintains AAA bond rating with Standard & Poor's and Moody's and a AA+ bond rating with Fitch.
¹¹ 2019 U.S. Census Estimates
¹² 2019 U.S. Census Estimates



DUPAGE COUNTY

2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Overview

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with 928,589 residents. The County is comprised of 9 townships, portions of 39 municipalities, and 336 square miles. DuPage is a major employment center for northeastern Illinois, home to 650,000 jobs, 90,000 businesses, 19 institutions of higher learning, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories (Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator), 300 miles of bikeways and 23,000 acres of forest preserve property. Over 20% of the county is open space.

County residents elect the County Board Chairman at-large plus nine other Countywide Elected Officials; Auditor, County Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Coroner, Recorder, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Sheriff, State's Attorney, and Treasurer. The County Board includes 18 members who are elected from six County Board Districts (three members per district).

Core county government services include the provision of: public safety and the operation of the county jail; administration of the 18th judicial circuit, the second largest court system in the state (and all related agencies - judiciary, state's attorney, public defender, jury commission, probation); construction and maintenance of the county highway and trails system; economic development and planning; public health, environmental health, mental health care, and substance use prevention; flood control and stormwater management; job training and support; water and sewer services; building and permitting; zoning enforcement; administration of countywide elections; operation of the county nursing home; community and senior services; emergency management and emergency preparedness; and animal services.

County leaders continue to seek opportunities to reduce the size of county government in order to minimize the tax burden on residents. In recent years, the county's budget has been reduced by \$25 million and full-time headcount lowered by 60 positions. DuPage County continues to receive an AAA Bond Rating from two major credit rating agencies and county government accounts for less than 3% of an average property tax bill.



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2020 Federal Legislative Priorities

COVID-19 response: provide appropriate funding to support local health departments, that are on the front line of our community public health system, respond to the 2019 novel coronavirus.

Support the cost of local elections: provide resources to local election jurisdictions to aide in the replacement of outdated technology to ensure all voters have access to a reliable, secure, and accurate election process.

Restore the SALT Deduction: reinstate the state and local tax (SALT) deduction, removing the \$10,000 cap established by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

Reinstate Local Authority to Deploy Small Cell Technology: support legislation to reverse an FCC ruling that severely limits local governments' ability to regulate the location of small cell technology in the public rights-of-way and to better protect the health and safety of our residents.

Restore Funding for FEMA Mapping program: restore funding under FEMA's Flood Risk Mapping program to provide homeowners with the best level of knowledge regarding their home's potential flood risk, to ensure communities are mapped accurately, and development is done responsibly.

Protect the Environmental Health of our Residents': protect citizens from dangerous chemicals in our air and water and enact measures to reduce our nation's carbon footprint.

Support Community Development programs: sustain funding for CDBG, HOME, LIHEAP, Weatherization, and CSBG, the primary federal programs that return a portion of federal tax dollars back to our communities to meet the needs of our elderly, individuals with disabilities, families in crisis, and low-income populations.

Provide Noise Relief for Communities surrounding O'Hare: direct the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to develop with Chicago, a permanent Fly Quiet rotation program and continue federal funding to soundproof additional properties in close proximity to O'Hare.

Enact the Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act: support H.R. 4211 to strengthen requirements for the licensing of animal dealers and exhibitors under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and expand the agency's oversight and enforcement of animal welfare standards.

Combat the Heroin/Opioid Epidemic: continue to provide funding to help states and counties fight the devastating impact of heroin and opioid addiction in our communities.

Reaffirm Support of Western Access: continue to support appropriate funding levels through capital programs and transportation reauthorization legislation, to assist with the construction of a western terminal and supporting infrastructure to ensure the full economic impact of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP).

Reinvest in Local Infrastructure & Capital Improvements: support counties by funding critical infrastructure improvements to reduce flooding, relieve traffic congestion, and improve the health and safety of DuPage County residents.



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COVID-19 response

The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD), like all local health departments throughout the nation, are facing a crisis of funding in planning for this unforeseen health emergency. DCHD has already accumulated over 2,000 staff hours (at a cost of over \$70,000) to handle a number of tasks including assessing and monitoring persons at risk of contracting the virus, finding and testing persons of interest who have recently traveled to high risk areas or exhibiting symptoms, and arranging for the isolation and quarantine of individuals as necessary. In addition, DCHD must respond to requests for assistance from our schools, other units of government, businesses, houses of worship, elected officials and citizens. Also, significant time continues to be allocated towards interacting with the media, expanding our social media presence, and coordinating local emergency response efforts should the virus become widespread in Illinois.

Counties are on the front lines protecting our communities from the novel coronavirus and other illnesses that have the potential to become a pandemic. As the public's demand for education and support to address heightened concerns related to COVID-19 increases, local health departments will be forced to decide between allocating resources between these emergency response efforts and other critical public health services absent the appropriate support.

DuPage County urges Congress to continue to equip states and county health departments with the resources they need to adequately respond to this infectious disease outbreak.

Support the cost of local elections

One of the most fundamental rights our constituents exercise is the right to cast their ballot during an election and to have those votes tabulated in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Although Congress has provided funding to states for election security, no significant federal funding has been provided to local election jurisdictions to replace outdated technology and voting equipment since 2003 under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

The DuPage County Clerk's Election Division provides election services to over 600,000 DuPage County voters. Duties include maintaining an accurate voter registration database, maintaining proper equipment, coordinating voter outreach activities, and the recruitment and training of election judges.

This year, the county will spend close to \$2 million just to replace electronic poll books that are utilized to check in voters at polling locations as the current equipment is no longer supported by the vendor. More importantly, larger voting equipment and tabulating systems used to administer elections (purchased in 2001 and 2006) needs to be replaced within the next several years (at an estimated cost of \$10 to \$15 million) as finding parts and maintaining this outdated technology has become increasingly difficult.

DuPage County is requesting federal assistance to help replace its aging voting infrastructure and to ensure the administration of a reliable, accurate and secure election process.



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Restore the SALT Deduction

The SALT (State and Local Tax) deduction permits taxpayers (who itemize) to deduct state and local taxes paid from their federally taxable income. However, this deduction was capped at \$10,000 by Congress in 2017 as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in order to generate over \$700 billion in additional federal revenues. This cap not only increases the real costs for taxpayers to support state and local services, it disproportionately punishes a specific group of Americans, individual homeowners.

Although DuPage County has worked diligently to reduce operational costs and to keep its portion of property taxes paid by our residents to less than 3% of a typical homeowner's bill, Illinois residents still pay some of the highest real estate taxes in the nation. As state and local government taxes are mandatory, families and individuals should not be capped as to the amount of taxes that may be deducted, nor should the SALT deduction be treated as optional like other federal deductions.

The ability for homeowners to deduct state and local taxes also provides one measure of relief, a deduction that more taxpayers claim than the mortgage interest deduction. In addition, this deduction is especially important for middle-income families as approximately 40% of taxpayers who claim the SALT deduction have an adjusted gross income of between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

Last December, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Restoring Tax Fairness for States and Localities Act (H.R. 5377) that would suspend the \$10,000 SALT cap deduction for 2020 and 2021, in addition to providing relief for married couples filing jointly in 2019 by doubling the cap to \$20,000.

DuPage County urges the U.S. Senate to also adopt legislation to remove the current cap on the SALT deduction.

Reinstate Local Authority to Deploy Small Cell Technology

DuPage County supports the goal of ensuring reliable wireless services and the advancement of technology for our residents and businesses and strives to work cooperatively with telecommunication providers to permit small wireless facilities in the county rights-of-way in an equitable and timely manner. Before recent federal and state action, the county was able to largely resolve community concerns that arose from the siting of these devices (proximity to schools, residential areas, etc..) as part of the local review process.

Unfortunately, the Illinois General Assembly removed local authority through the enactment in June of 2018 of the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act (Public Act 100-0585), that significantly limits local control over the siting of small wireless facilities on locally owned infrastructure in the public rights-of-way (traffic signals, street lights) and permits the installation of new poles for the benefit of commercial entities.



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Subsequent to the passage of the state legislation, on September 26, 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a declaratory ruling that narrows the window of evaluating applications, limits local aesthetic requirements and reduces fees that can be imposed. The FCC ruling further reduced local

control over its right-of-way and significantly restricted local government authority to appropriately site small cell devices effective January 14, 2019. As cellular technology continues to evolve and advance, that requires an expanded network of transmitters in close proximity, the administrative burden on local governments will continue to increase.

With the expansion and evolution of cellular technology, there is also growing consumer interest in studying the possible health impacts of this new technology. Local communities, however, must rely upon federal agencies (the FCC and FDA), responsible for assuring our safety, to address these concerns.

DuPage County urges Congress to support S.R. 2012, Restoring Local Control Over Public Infrastructure Act, and to further examine potential adverse public health impacts of the deployment of small cell technology on our communities.

Restore Funding to support FEMA's Flood Risk Mapping Program

According to the Association of State Floodplain Managers, flooding is our nation's most frequent and costly natural disaster, averaging more than \$20 billion in losses each year this decade. Flood hazard mitigation is dependent however upon accurate and up to date identification of flood risk thru mapping.

It is critical therefore, that relevant flood hazards are mapped accurately to ensure that development is done responsibly, flood insurance is assessed properly, and residents have the best level of knowledge regarding their property's own flood risk. Combined, these measures result in less flood damage which equates to reduced flood insurance claims at the federal level, more resilient communities in the face of natural hazards, and enhanced quality of life for our residents.

The proposed funding level for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Risk Mapping Program for FY 2021 as contained in the Senate's Homeland Security Appropriations Bill includes a **\$115 million decrease over prior years**. If approved, this decrease would severely limit the progress we have made in accurately mapping the flood risk throughout DuPage County and the nation.

The DuPage County Stormwater Management Department has been a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) with FEMA since the program's inception in 1999. In 2008, FEMA granted DuPage County \$2 million to revise outdated floodplain maps for 24 watersheds within the county however this accounts for only 40% of the county with another 35 watersheds left with outdated flood hazard information, especially considering changes in land use, flood control measures and climate patterns since the last maps were created as far back as the 1970's. DuPage County has utilized its own resources to purchase mapping software and in-house staff to model an additional ten watersheds but due to time and financial constraints, floodplain maps could not be updated for these areas.



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DuPage County is requesting \$500,000 in CTP funding in FY 2021 from FEMA to match the County's in-kind contributions in order to update the floodplain maps for three major tributary watersheds (Klein Creek, Ferry Creek, and Spring Brook No. 2) in the county.

Protect the Environmental Health of our Residents

EtO Emissions:

In August of 2018, DuPage County residents in Willowbrook and surrounding communities were made aware of air sampling completed by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Recovery (ATSDR) around the Sterigenics facility due to its emission of ethylene oxide (EtO) into the atmosphere. The data concluded that the 19,000 people who lived, worked, and attended school near the facility may have an increased risk of cancer due to the exposure to EtO, a known carcinogen, data that was confirmed in early 2019 by an Illinois Department of Public Health study.

The State of Illinois subsequently shut down operations at the Sterigenics facility in February of 2019. Following a long, hard-fought battle by residents and local elected officials who lobbied the General Assembly to pass the most restrictive EtO legislation/regulations in the country, Sterigenics announced in September of 2019 that it would permanently cease all operations at the Willowbrook facility. However, two other medical sterilization facilities that utilize EtO continue to operate in Waukegan and Gurnee.

Government has the responsibility to protect the health and safety of its citizens. DuPage County calls upon Congress to work towards banning the use of Ethylene Oxide and urges the USEPA to tighten toxic air limits for medical sterilizer facilities through the passage of amendments to the Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) known as MON, to reduce hazardous air pollutants including EtO.

Climate Change:

The severity and frequency of extreme weather events including rising temperatures and heavy rainfall, are having a direct impact on DuPage County stormwater operations. Average annual precipitation in the Midwest has increased by 5% to 10%, rainfall during the four wettest days of the year has increased by about 35%, and flow rates in most streams during the worst flood of the year have increased by more than 20%. These more frequent storm events have increased costs to the county for energy use and maintenance of our flood control facilities. For example, the county recently had to replace two pumps (earlier than anticipated) at a cost of \$250,000 each in addition to increased electricity costs (it can cost up to \$250,000 to pump water out of the Elmhurst Quarry).

As urban flooding becomes more prevalent, property owners are also faced with rising costs. In addition, increased stormwater runoff leads to further pollution, erosion, and threatens water quality. Transportation infrastructure construction will need to account for the increased runoff. The durability of roadways is expected to decline with additional maintenance. Emergency relief from more frequent and more severe weather is also anticipated.



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The primary cause of climate change is attributed to human activity and carbon emissions through the burning of fossil fuels, that accounts for more than 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Many counties, including DuPage, have taken steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency, practicing energy conservation at county facilities, purchasing low-emission vehicles, and promoting environmentally sensitive design.

In 2015, DuPage County acknowledged its responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint by launching *Cool DuPage*, a countywide effort to encourage greater energy conservation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10% in 2020 and 20% by 2030.

DuPage County joins many other local units of government and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to urge Congress to address climate change and to pursue national programs to develop carbon-neutral energy sources that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and utilize cost effective technologies. DuPage County also supports the efforts of the bi-partisan Climate Solutions Caucus to make fossil fuels less desirable and cleaner sources of energy more competitive, including an examination of a carbon fee and dividend program.

PFAS:

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a large group of man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1950's. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water and air. PFAS do not occur naturally but can be found in people and wildlife and can stay in people's bodies for a long period of time. PFAS contamination may be found in drinking water, food, indoor dust, and consumer products including food packaging materials, nonstick cookware, stain resistant carpet treatments, water resistant clothing, cleaning products, paints, varnishes and sealants, firefighting foam, and some cosmetics.

The PFAS Action Act of 2019 was adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives on January 10, 2020 and is currently before the U.S. Senate. The legislation requires the USEPA to regulate PFAS and designates certain PFAS's as hazardous substances, requiring the remediation of releases of PFAS's into the environment. The bill also requires the USEPA to conduct comprehensive toxicity testing on all PFAS's and among many other requirements, directs the USEPA to promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for certain PFAS's, to publish a health advisory for a PFAS not subject to a national primary drinking water regulation and to establish a grant program to assist community water systems with the costs associated with treating water contaminated by a PFAS. DuPage County owns and operates several wastewater treatment facilities which would be significantly impacted by PFAS regulations at the discharge.

DuPage County has a history of groundwater contamination that not only posed a public health threat to our citizens but also cost significant resources to remediate. DuPage County urges Congress to work towards a comprehensive solution to limit PFAS exposure and to conduct more research about the potential effects of exposure to PFAS in order to protect the public health of our citizens.



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USEPA:

The administration and Congress have significantly reduced resources allocated to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in recent years. USEPA's workforce in particular has been reduced by 1,200 employees at a time when federal data indicates that Illinoisans "face some of the highest risks in the nation for cancer, lung disease, and other health problems linked to toxic chemicals...." DuPage County urges Congress to provide the resources necessary for the USEPA to adequately address its responsibilities.

Support Community Development Programs

The President's proposed FY 2021 federal budget would eliminate funding for the following county programs:

CDBG

DuPage County receives approximately \$3.8 million in CDBG funding each year and in turn, provides grants to municipalities and local non-profit agencies. Now in its 46th year, CDBG remains one of the few programs that returns tax dollars sent to the federal government back to local communities and is arguably one of the federal government's most successful domestic programs. Funds benefit low to moderate income persons and neighborhoods by providing needed infrastructure improvements; public facilities for persons with disabilities and other special needs populations; and public services such as case management and housing services.

Projects anticipated for 2020 include: \$852,200 to improve water mains, roads, street lighting, and accessibility of public buildings in two communities and operate three neighborhood resource centers in low-income neighborhoods; \$1.7 million to renovate residential properties, public facilities, counseling centers, and learning environments for five entities providing services for persons with disabilities, seniors, veterans, and other special populations; \$278,000 to assist low-income homeowners in keeping their homes safe, code compliant, and energy efficient; and \$568,000 to pay for case management and

Other services through 13 agencies that assist homeless persons (including youth, families, veterans, and victims of domestic violence).

HOME Investment Partnership Program

Provides \$1.6 million in annual funding for the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing. These funds create affordable rental units for seniors and families. HOME funds are also used in DuPage County to provide down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers.

LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Provides \$1.7 million in annual funding (the program also receives some state funding), to help low-income households pay their energy bills.

Weatherization

Provides \$1.35 million in annual funding (the program also receives some state funding), to support energy efficiency improvements for low-income households.



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Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Provides an estimated \$1 million each year to support programs within the county to assist households below 125% of the poverty level including Information and Referral, Homeless Prevention, and Family Self-Sufficiency. Also supports programs operated by DuPage non-profits including Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Catholic Charities, 360 Youth Services, HOME DuPage, and Outreach Community Services.

DuPage County urges Congress to restore funding for these programs to FY 2020 levels.

Provide Noise Relief for Communities Surrounding O'Hare

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission reports that of the 22,000 noise related complaints received, approximately one-quarter originated from DuPage municipalities west of the airport. More noise monitoring stations recorded increases in the average noise levels than decreases, and 3rd quarter 2019 reports show an increased utilization of the Fly Quiet period (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) for arrivals and departures.

Since 2015, stakeholder groups, the Suburban O'Hare Commission (SOC) and the Fair Allocation in Runways (FAIR), have worked closely with the Chicago Department of Aviation to improve the noise

impact to communities. Communities have focused largely on runway rotation to avoid significant impacts in consecutive weeks.

O'Hare is entering the final phase of its runway construction period which is slated for completion in 2021. With many runways under construction or being decommissioned, the FAA has approved an "interim" rotation program that will last until the final runway expansion is commissioned.

DuPage County requests that Congress direct the FAA to work with the City of Chicago and neighboring communities, to deliver a permanent Fly Quiet rotation and departure heading program under the ultimate O'Hare Modernization program (OMP) layout and to work collaboratively with all parties to help improve the quality of life for those residing around O'Hare.

In addition, DuPage County urges the FAA to continue federal funding support for sound proofing properties in close proximity to O'Hare.

Enact the Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act

DuPage County Animal Services (DCAS) operates an open-admission shelter in Wheaton that is required by state statute to accept any animal surrendered to the facility, both stray and owner-relinquished. DCAS works to: prevent and control the spread of rabies through bite investigation, rabies testing and tag issuance; rescues and shelters stray and unwanted animals to reunite with owners, transfer to rescue groups or secure a permanent home; provide veterinary care to treat illness and injury; perform spay/neuter procedures to control the animal overpopulation; and promote responsible pet ownership through humane education programs.



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In 2019, over 2,000 animals entered the facility, with dogs and cats representing the two largest animal populations. Unfortunately, many of the dogs coming to the shelter are sick or suffer from neglect. Many also arrive with severe behavioral problems due to overbreeding and a lack of humane care by

irresponsible commercial breeders. According to the Humane Society, in Illinois, over 100 “puppy mills” exist with 99% of puppies being sold in pet stores coming from a puppy mill. These facilities often confine animals in stacked cages with little or no veterinary care and animals may often be riddled with genetic defects due to overbreeding practices. Some of these animals end up being surrendered at the county shelter due to illness, injury or the high costs of required medications, making it difficult to find a permanent home.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) current licensing process of commercial breeders, circuses, petting zoos and other animal dealers is broken and permits the continued inhumane treatment of countless animals. The USDA has removed from its website thousands of inspection reports, licenses are routinely renewed even if animals are being mistreated, inspections are pre-announced, and there is lax to non-existent enforcement of proper animal welfare standards.

H.R. 4211, the Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act, would require unannounced inspections, new applicants would only have two opportunities to pass an inspection, licensees with more than one

serious violation in the previous two years would not be renewed, all inspection reports, enforcement records and animal inventories must be published online, and the USDA would be required to suspend the license of any animal dealer or exhibitor who commits a violation that presents a risk to animal welfare. The legislation also authorizes citizen lawsuits to enforce the Animal Welfare Act.

DuPage County urges Congress to swiftly adopt the Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act to hold commercial breeders, animal dealers, and exhibitors accountable for the treatment of animals and to restore integrity to the USDA licensing process.

Combat the Heroin/Opioid Epidemic

We continue to face an opioid epidemic that has infiltrated every community in this state. The statistics are staggering; according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse in 2017, there were 2,202 drug overdose deaths involving opioids in Illinois, including 95 deaths in DuPage County last year.

A joint operation of the DuPage County Board and the DuPage County Health Department, the HOPE (Heroin, Opioid, Prevention & Education) Task Force is working to coordinate our local response to this epidemic, training over 5,400 first responders and citizens in the use of naloxone (Narcan), saving almost 800 lives using Narcan, decreasing access to prescription drugs by collecting over 60 tons of drugs through the county’s Rx Box drug disposal program, offering safe prescribing educational programs to healthcare professionals, leading education efforts to create awareness and reduce stigma of those with substance use disorders and support of new initiatives such as the FOCUS (First Offender Call Unified for Success) program, that offers non-violent first-time drug offenders with the treatment and support services necessary to remain on the road to recovery and rehabilitation.



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Finding appropriate treatment options for substance use disorders is often difficult and remains one of the top barriers to recovery. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, only 18% of those who needed addiction treatment in the U.S. in 2016 were able to access it. Currently, Medicaid only reimburses 60 cents on the dollar of residential treatment costs compared to private insurance coverage (if available), which limits residential treatment to a specific number of days.

DuPage County urges Congress to approve legislation that authorizes funding to assist states and local governments to eradicate the use of heroin and opioids in our communities and to increase the availability of residential treatment, recovery homes, and outpatient services and support.

Reaffirm support of Western Access

DuPage County has entered into agreements in support of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) and supporting area infrastructure improvements, specifically the Elgin O'Hare-Western Bypass, a *Project of National and Regional Significance*, one of only 26 projects nationwide, including a Western

Access to O'Hare Airport. These projects will sustain our global competitiveness, promote business retention, and create new jobs.

It is estimated that 65,000 new jobs will be created as a result of these improvements and the Gross Regional Product (GRP) for DuPage County will increase 20% or over \$10 billion per year by 2030. Additionally, hundreds of millions of dollars in federal tax revenues will be generated over the project construction period.

DuPage County urges our Congressional Delegation to continue to support these improvements, especially Western Access, and to support appropriate funding levels through capital programs and transportation reauthorization legislation, to assist financially with the construction of a western terminal and/or supporting infrastructure to ensure the full economic impact of these improvements are realized.

Reinvest in Local Infrastructure & Capital Improvements

Infrastructure provides the backbone for county operations. Counties invest more than \$122 billion annually in building infrastructure and maintaining and operating public works systems. Counties also build and maintain 46 percent of all public roads and 38 percent of bridges nationwide. The decisions that county leaders make every day about transportation, infrastructure, and land use policies, influence local and national economic opportunities, shape how communities grow and change and contribute to our quality of life.

DuPage County is responsible for a large portion of the county's infrastructure including: the provision of water and sewer services to approximately 200,000 residents; the operation and maintenance of



DUPAGE COUNTY



2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

seventeen countywide flood control facilities; the operation of critical facilities at the county's main Wheaton Campus including the county jail, courthouse, health department, county nursing home and animal shelter; plus, the maintenance of 220 miles of county highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

Each year, the county compiles a comprehensive list of flood control, transportation, wastewater, water, and other critical county infrastructure projects that once completed, would significantly reduce flooding for homeowners and businesses, relieve traffic congestion, improve water quality, and enhance public safety for the county's 928,589 residents.

To view DuPage County's 2020 Capital Plan (that is searchable by Congressional District), please visit www.dupagecapitalplan.com or request a copy from the County Board office.