



REPORT

TO: Commissioners
FROM: Braidy Powers
DATE: November 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Non-Mandated Funding History

DESCRIPTION:

Non-Mandated Funding History

RECOMMENDATION:

Information only. For board consideration in the 2026 Budget process.

SUMMARY:

Attached is a history of Cook County's non-mandated funding history from 2003 to the 2026 budget. Non-mandated refers to spending that is not mandated by law. Discretionary spending is a phrase that has also been used by the county. It has sometimes been used to refer to funding given to non-profit organizations to distinguish from funding given to governmental organizations. The list identifies distinct organizations that the county has chosen to fund, but it is not a complete list of non-mandated expenditures. There are also non-mandated programs and services within county departments and levels of service provided that are discretionary. Over the years county boards along with department heads have weighed the costs and benefits of those services as they make budgetary decisions.

NON-MANDATED LEVIES

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
County Operations												
Airport Fund	100,000	95,000	89,900	85,100	72,500	56,000	61,000	84,000	79,000	95,300	95,300	95,300
MN Extension Service	51,986	52,396	52,349	56,346	56,576	63,658	61,672	61,753	69,502	63,511	68,545	68,963
Community Building	54,882	36,193	42,985	50,221	56,475	59,998	59,615	60,574	69,680	62,841	66,418	69,566
Emergency Conference	1,400	1,380	1,380	3,855	3,870	3,445	3,065	3,165	8,220	8,020	7,995	7,995
YMCA												110,000
Parks Dept.												
Joint Powers Agreements												
(1) EDA	90,000	85,500	81,000	82,620	85,000	135,290	140,565	148,566	148,566	148,566	150,000	210,000
GM Library	95,843	96,888	103,618	106,010	111,179	119,435	123,895	123,056	124,996	131,109	130,561	130,810
Other Govt.												
Housing Redev. Authority												
Cook County SWCD			14,732	24,294	31,062	35,181	35,302	35,400	36,120	40,120	39,526	39,526
(2)CC Historical Society	17,700	14,082	14,832	17,320	16,037	15,342	30,342	30,342	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
(3)Schroeder Hist. Society										15,000	15,000	15,000
Total of Above Categories	411,811	381,439	400,796	425,766	432,699	488,349	515,456	546,856	591,084	619,467	628,345	802,160

DISCRETIONARY

No. Shore Vis Ctr (new entity in 2017)				Board agreed by motion to fund for 5 years thru 2016						5,000	5,000	5,000
Volunteer Attorney	2,700	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Legal Aid	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Council On Aging	100,066	97,711	99,570	104,103	109,766	99,395	95,000	90,000	83,000	81,000	81,000	81,000
(4)Violence Prevention Ctr	16,000	12,600	12,600	11,340	10,000	9,000	7,650	7,650	7,650	7,000	17,500	17,500
Art Colony	16,000	14,875	14,875	14,875	11,750	10,950	13,575	13,375	12,375	13,375	5,000	5,000
NS Music Assn											3,000	3,000
WTIP											2,375	3,000
GM Playhouse											4,000	4,000
Schroeder Hist. Society										15,000	15,000	15,000
City- Gunflint Hills Golf			5,000							5,000	5,000	5,000
CC Community Education	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	9,500	9,500	12,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Birch Grove Community School												
AEOA Transp.	5,000	-		2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Higher Education (RDC)	10,000	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	15,000	15,000	15,000
Birch Grove Foundation	10,000	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	14,700	14,300	14,300	13,800	14,300	14,300
TOTAL DISCRETIONARY	173,766	160,686	167,545	167,818	167,016	154,845	156,425	150,825	145,325	176,675	188,675	189,300

Public Health Grants

AEOA Employment & Training												
Birch Grove Community School												
Care Partners Senior Rides												
Cook County Community Education												
Council On Aging												
Carlry Jean/WTIP												
Great Expectations												
Hamilton Habitat												
Higher Education (RDC)												
CC Mn Restorative Justice												
Cooperation Station												
Nothshore Health Care Foundation												
Northwoods Foods Project												
Violence Prevention Ctr												
YMCA												
Total PHHS Discretionary Grants												
Total All Discretionary Grants												

* These requests were movbed to PHHS budget starting in 2019. They are considered health/human service related.

* County Board authorized up to \$130,000 for PHHS to budget in this new category in the first year.

Max Discretion was set at 4% during 2016 budget. Since then Hist Soc has moved to Other Govt related - changing the formula to 3%.

(1) EDA budget includes 60,000 BDA Bond Support beginning 2014 budget.

(2)CC Historical Society main buildings are owned and maintained by the County.

Many counties fund countywide historical societies. Moved to Other Govt Related

(3)Schroeder Hist. Society is considered closer to basic county functioning than arts and culture

(4)VPC did not request levy support in 2018 due to sufficient state funding.

NON-MANDATED LEVIES

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
County Operations													
Airport Fund	95,300	95,300	95,300	95,300	93,500	93,500	94,884	95,509	93,500	106,924	114,624	125,194	121,594
MN Extension Service	68,963	67,845	63,887	66,123	64,331	72,304	79,633	81,064	97,236	97,625	96,415	106,450	109,450
Community Building	69,566	88,865	94,675	106,047	79,660	101,487	106,562	109,124	59,820	76,955	85,861	120,662	194,426
Emergency Conference	7,995	5,175	-	5,775	175	1,525	5,225	5,325	5,825	6,375	16,000	10,925	8,125
YMCA	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	170,000	243,323	303,592	320,688	324,773	315,273	291,909	272,498	267,847
Parks Dept.									8,961	60,061	81,045	117,769	97,253
Joint Powers Agreements													
(1) EDA	210,000	223,550	223,550	386,290	335,290	349,054	360,000	360,000	400,000	295,000	490,720	519,880	512,962
GM Library	130,810	134,532	145,564	156,591	174,895	183,342	191,978	201,029	214,503	231,581	232,825	255,705	253,530
Other Govt.													
Housing Redev. Authority									125,000	125,011	290,414	295,284	287,444
Cook County SWCD	39,526	36,526	36,239	36,239	58,989	36,239	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	80,000	80,000
(2)CC Historical Society	55,000	55,400	50,000	45,000	52,500	68,000	68,000	68,000	71,400	72,828	72,828	72,828	78,828
(3)Schroeder Hist. Society	15,000	15,000	15,000	13,500	10,000	13,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total of Above Categories	802,160	832,193	834,215	1,020,865	1,039,340	1,162,274	1,284,874	1,315,739	1,476,018	1,462,633	1,847,641	1,992,195	2,026,459

DISCRETIONARY

No. Shore Vis Ctr (new entity in 2017)	5,000	5,000	5,000	0		*							
Volunteer Attorney	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,700	3,000	*							
Legal Aid	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,600	4,700	*							
Council On Aging	81,000	81,000	73,000	63,000	64,900	*							
(4)Violence Prevention Ctr	17,500	14,875		4,500		*							
Art Colony	5,000	5,000	7,000	6,300	5,500	9,200	10,000	10,000	10,000				
NS Music Assn	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,700	2,000	2,000							
WTIP	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,700	2,700	-							
GM Playhouse	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,600	5,000	4,000	4,000						
Schroeder Hist. Society	15,000	15,000	15,000	13,500	see above	see above							
City: Gunflint Hills Golf	5,000	5,000	0	0									
CC Community Education	15,000	15,000	15,000	13,500	13,500								
Birch Grove Community School		6,000	9,000	13,500	13,500								
AEOA Transp.				0									
Higher Education (RDC)	15,000	10,000	15,000	13,500	13,500								
Birch Grove Foundation	14,300	20,000	15,000	4,500	19,000	*							
TOTAL DISCRETIONARY	189,300	193,375	170,500	147,600	147,300	15,200	14,000	10,000	10,000	-			

Public Health Grants

AEOA Employment & Training						500				-	-	-	-
Birch Grove Community School						15,093	16,000	25,000	15,800	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000
Care Partners Senior Rides						2,500	6,000	8,000	10,000	12,000	12,000	15,000	15,000
Cook County Community Education						10,375	12,500	12,500	9,800	12,000	10,000	-	10,000
Council On Aging						56,440	54,005	51,753	41,800	50,000	62,000	64,550	35,000
Carlry Jean/WTIP											-	10,000	-
Great Expectations											20,000	12,450	15,000
Hamilton Habitat											-	10,000	-
Higher Education (RDC)						12,450	10,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
CC Mn Restorative Justice						-	-	-	7,800		-	-	-
Cooperation Station						22,659	25,000	22,747	27,500	39,000	5,000	10,000	-
Nothshore Health Care Foundation						10,000	10,000	-			-	-	-
Northwoods Foods Project										20,000	-	10,000	10,000
Violence Prevention Ctr										23,000	6,000	18,000	30,000
YMCA								-	10,000		-	10,000	5,000
Total PHHS Discretionary Grants						130,017	133,505	135,000	137,700	191,000	150,000	190,000	150,000
Total All Discretionary Grants						145,217	147,505	145,000	147,700				

* These requests were movbed to PHHS budget starting in 2019. They are considered health/human service related.

* County Board authorized up to \$130,000 for PHHS to budget in this new category in the first year.

Max Discretion was set at 4% during 2016 budget. Since then Hist Soc has moved to Other Govt related - changing the formula to 3%.

(1) EDA budget includes 60,000 BDA Bond Support beginning 2014 budget.

(2)CC Historical Society main buildings are owned and maintained by the County.

Many counties fund countywide historical societies. Moved to Other Govt Related

(3)Schroeder Hist. Society is considered closer to basic county functioning than arts and culture

(4)VPC did not request levy support in 2018 due to sufficient state funding.