

Cook County, Illinois
Management's Discussion and Analysis
Year Ended November 30, 2018, continued

The government-wide financial statements report the following different types of programs or activities:

- **Governmental Activities** – The majority of County services are reported under this category. Governmental activities of the County include public safety responsibilities through the operation of the largest unified court system in the nation and the operation of the largest single site jail complex in the United States. Also included in governmental activities are corporate functions that include the design, operation and maintenance of a highway system; control of the environment; the assessment, levy, collection and distribution of property taxes; and general administration and finance. The major revenue sources of these activities are property taxes, sales taxes and other non-property taxes, and various fees. Governmental activities include the primary government composed of the County itself.
- **Business-type Activities** – The business-type, or enterprise, activities of the County include the operation of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (“CCHHS”). The CCHHS consists of the following entities: John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Oak Forest Health Center, Provident Hospital of Cook County, Cermak Health Services, the Department of Public Health, the Ambulatory and Community Health Network of Cook County, Ruth Rothstein Core Center, County Care and the Bureau of Health Services. As an enterprise activity, the intent of these entities is to provide primary, intermediate, acute, and tertiary medical care to patients, without regard to their ability to pay. The CCHHS Board oversees the operational, planning, and policy activities of the CCHHS.
- **Discretely Presented Component Units** – Component units are entities for which the GASB Standards view the County as financially accountable. The two discretely presented entities, based on their relationship with the County, are the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the “District”) and the Emergency Telephone System, which provides Emergency 911 services primarily in unincorporated areas of the County. Under Illinois law, the Forest Preserve District is a separate body politic, as a non-home rule unit of government with a separate and distinct tax levy and financial resources from those of the County.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements are designed to report groupings of related accounts which are used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The County, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with budgetary and other financial-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the County can be divided into the following categories: **governmental** funds, **proprietary** funds and **fiduciary** funds.

Governmental funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements, i.e. most of the County’s basic services are reported in the governmental funds. These statements focus on (1) how cash and other financial assets can readily be converted to available resources and (2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Such information may be useful in determining what financial resources are available in the near term to finance the County’s various programs.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, the reader may better