

This report is updated twice in the County’s “QuickScore” performance management software during the Budget process. Once, as part of the preliminary forecast submission which is generally submitted near the end of May and once more per ordinance “as of a date no greater than 30 days prior to the date of the submission of the Budget Request” (Article X, Sec. 2-934. - Annual Budget Request Preparation and Submissions) generally sometime in the month of August. In addition to this performance management data submission, Offices under the President (“OUP”) continue to participate in the STAR performance management process. OUP update their data monthly in the County’s “QuickScore” performance management software and report out regularly in STAR performance management sessions.

## **Economic Development**

The County continues to play an increasing role in regional economic development through its leadership in both the Chicago Regional Growth Corporation (CRGC) and South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative (SSEGI). CRGC focuses on fostering the growth of the seven counties and City of Chicago in northeastern Illinois with a current focus on assisting small businesses across the region enter global markets, strengthening important economic clusters like fabricated metals and machinery and facilitating enhancements to the regional systems like truck permitting. SSEGI brings together community, industry, and government to reestablish Cook County’s South Suburbs as an economic powerhouse. SSEGI supports industry-sector partnerships and development projects to support its major economic clusters in food manufacturing, metals machinery & equipment (MME), and transportation, distribution & logistics (TD&L).

The County utilizes its programs to leverage additional local investments. In 2018, the County secured new resources to promote the expansion of apprenticeships and to support industrial resiliency in the defense industry supply chain and assisted over 80 businesses to expand or relocate which leverages additional private investment as well as job creation and retention. Our investments in real estate and community infrastructure further leverage investment in neglected areas boosting the economic value of properties and attracting resources to enhance community development.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDIT**

Portions of the audit were implemented as a subcontractor agreement between RSM US LLP and a consortium of Cook County-based minority and women-owned certified public accounting firms.

In addition to the fiscal 2018 County basic financial statements, RSM US LLP also conducted the CCHHS audit and the County Treasurer’s audit. The Clerk of the Circuit Court audit was conducted by Prado & Renteria. Washington, Pittman & McKeever conducted the Single Audit of the County’s various federal grant programs. Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP conducted the Forest Preserve District’s audit and Legacy Professionals LLP conducted the separate pension fund audits. The Cook County Emergency Telephone System Board audit was performed by Mitchell Titus. All of the independent audits have been performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and received unmodified opinions.

Copies of each audit report, including the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, findings and recommendations, and the auditor’s report on internal control and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, are included in separate annual audit reports and, may be obtained from the Comptroller’s Office, Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark Street, Room 500, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

## **AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (“GFOA”) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Cook County for its comprehensive annual financial report (“CAFR”) for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2017. This was the fifth consecutive year that the County has achieved this prestigious award, with the most previous such prior award in 2001. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, the County had to publish an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR that satisfied both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable program requirements.