



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Cook County Building, Board Room,  
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**BOARD AGENDA**

**Thursday, November 16, 2023, 9:00 AM**

**Special Meeting to Consider FY 2024 Budget as Amended**

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered to speak, with the Secretary, 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live from the County Board Room at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, IL or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor Conference Room F, Chicago, IL. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

**BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION****DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL SECURITY**

[23-5710](#)

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), KEVIN B. MORRISON, JOHN P. DALEY, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, BILL LOWRY, JOSINA MORITA, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION****CREATION OF THE DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY FUND**

**WHEREAS**, proclamations of disaster may be declared by the Cook County Board President pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305, Section 11, and Section 26-36 of the Cook County Code of Ordinances, as well as by the Governor of Illinois pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305, Section 7, and the President of the United States pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 5170; and

**WHEREAS**, in the last three years Cook County has experienced unprecedented proclamations of disaster which have included disaster declarations at the County, State, and Federal levels; and

**WHEREAS**, proclamations of disaster have been most recently declared for the Covid-19 Pandemic, various weather-related events including flooding and severe storms, and declarations related to the influx

of new arrivals or asylum seekers; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2020, Cook County has received federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) due to declared disasters. During the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to other federal funds, FEMA provided over \$1.3 billion in Illinois through public assistance, which offers aid to local governments, with over \$205 million for Cook County. For the Presidentially declared disaster due to severe flooding and storms on July 2, 2023, residents of Cook County received over \$260 million in direct disaster assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, because FEMA public and individual assistance is not guaranteed in every disaster situation and, when approved, takes weeks and months to be distributed, an immediate disaster funding source is needed to effectively address disasters in Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, while such proclamations of disaster may provide access to State and Federal financial assistance, in order to address such disaster proclamations within Cook County, Cook County and must be prepared operationally and financially for such emergency and disaster events to the ensure the public health, safety and welfare of current and future Cook County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, to protect the public health, safety and welfare of current and future Cook County residents, it is prudent for Cook County to ensure that financial resources are available to address local disaster events in a timely manner and to further this objective, Cook County desires to establish the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund and appropriate funds for FY24 and future years to address Cook County's needs in response to proclamations of disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, the expenditure of said funds in the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund will be permissible upon the designation of a disaster proclamation at the County, State, and Federal level and approval of the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding of the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund will be subject to the annual appropriation process.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, that a Disaster Response and Recovery Fund (the "Fund") shall be created, and that the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security shall manage the Fund in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer or designee; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, In FY 2024, the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund shall be funded with \$100,000,000.00, of which \$70,000,000.00 shall be allocated for new arrival health care costs above and beyond what is allocated in the FY 2024 Annual Appropriation Bill, \$20,000,000.00 shall be allocated for municipal or local government costs related to disaster response and recovery, which may include support for new arrivals, and \$10,000,000.00 shall be allocated for other Cook County disaster response and recovery events that may transpire in FY 2024. The allocations provided herein may be

modified but any such modifications shall be subject to the approval of the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the expenditure of said funds in the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund will be permissible upon the designation of a disaster proclamation at the County, State, and Federal or Federal level and the use of available funds must also be approved by the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department of Budget and Management Services shall work with the Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security as well as various County departments and agencies to track the expenditures of funds from the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, as allowable, the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security shall seek reimbursement from Federal or State government for expenses made from the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund and that such reimbursements shall be returned to the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby authorize the Chief Financial Officer to assign and transfer the General Fund's fund balance for stabilization of the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund in an amount not to exceed \$50,000,000.00 in any given year and future years, and such contribution will be based on an analysis of projected year-end the General Fund's fund balance in accordance with Cook County's Fund Balance Policy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chief Financial Officer shall be authorized to make such transfers and/or assignments in the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund in FY 2024 as well as future years for stabilization if authorized in the Annual Budget Resolution and said appropriations will continue to be based on an analysis of projected year-end General Fund fund balance in accordance with Cook County's Fund Balance Policy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department of Budget and Management Services shall work with the Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security as well as various County departments and agencies to provide a quarterly written report to the Cook County Board of Commissioners upon the use of the Disaster Response and Recovery Funds.

**COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

**23-4949 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION** Executive Budget, Cook County Budget Resolution and Annual Appropriation Bill for FY2024.