Maine Township Agency Funding Special Meeting October 6, 2026

Maine Township Agency Funding Special meeting has been videotaped.
For more detailed reports and discussions please refer to the recorded meeting at:
https://mainetown.com/government/agendas_minutes.php

Board Members Present: Supervisor Jones, Trustees: Horvath, Maher, Lynch. Trustee Malik arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Others in attendance: Vicki Rizzo, Marie Dachniwsky, Richard Lyon, Kathy Sabbini, Marty Cook, Ian Parker, Hamid Akbari, Azar Khounani, Greg Davenport, Nicholas Demorest, Guadalupe Fonseca, Anne Brown, Hina Lodhi, Luticia Fiorito, Nicole Coomer, Laura Piel Martin, Dave Ray, Andrea Kszystyniak, Alison Pittas, Staci Diez, Kathy Matousek, Luna Spivey, Jennifer Hamilton, Melody Rose, Jessica Smart, Andrew Dohan, Frank DeCicco and Jessica Guzman.

Supervisor Jones called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and Deputy Clerk Guzman called the roll.

Agenda Item: Public Participation
None.

Agenda Item: Presentations by following Agencies:

1. Dehkhoda Educational Foundation- The International Servant Leaders Museum
Presentation by Hamid Akbari and Azar Khounani. 2027 funding request: $12,000.
The Dehkhoda Educational Foundation operates the International Servant Leaders Museum in Morton Grove and offers educational, artistic and cultural opportunities for Maine Township residents. The museum provides free visits, guided tours, exhibitions, leadership education and community activities for youth, families and older adults. The organization collaborates with local schools, libraries and community partners to encourage cultural understanding, intergenerational learning and civic engagement. Funding would help sustain public access and expand educational programming and outreach.
See video at 1:23

2. North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
Presentation by Greg Davenport. 2027 funding request: $12,500.
North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic provides free civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families in the areas of domestic violence, housing and immigration. Assistance includes legal advice, representation and advocacy for survivors, tenants and individuals navigating immigration proceedings. The agency noted increased demand for immigration defense and detained-client representation. Its work aims to reduce barriers to legal assistance and help residents achieve safety and stability.
See video at 13:20

3. Greater Family Health
Presentation by Nicholas Demorest and Guadalupe Fonseca. 2027 funding request: $5,804.
Greater Family Health is a community-based federally qualified health center providing affordable, comprehensive healthcare regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Services include family and internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, oral health, mental health counseling and psychiatry. Its integrated approach addresses both physical and behavioral health needs and seeks to improve access to ongoing care for underserved individuals and families.
See video at 23:27

4. PEER Services
Presentation by Anne Brown and Hina Lodhi. 2027 funding request: $20,000.
PEER Services provides substance use prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support to adolescents, adults and families in northern Cook County. Programs include outpatient and intensive

treatment, counseling, medication assisted recovery, prevention education and continuing care. The agency describes its Mobile Medication Assisted Recovery program, which helps bring treatment and harm reduction services to people facing transportation and other access barriers. The organization also participates in regional partnerships supporting long term recovery.

See video at 32:23

5. WINGS

Presentation by Luticia Fiorito. 2027 funding request: $10,000.

WINGS Program assists individuals and families affected by domestic violence through emergency shelter, transitional and supportive housing, counseling, legal advocacy and safety planning. The organization also offers financial guidance and specialized services for children who have experience or witnessed domestic violence. Its programs focus on helping survivors secure safety, stable housing, greater financial independence and the resources needed for long-term recovery.

See video at 36:00

6. Center of Concern

Presentation by Nicole Coomer. 2027 funding request: $75,000.

The Center of Concern, is based in Des Plaines, provides social services focused on housing stability, older adult support and assistance to residents facing financial or personal hardship. Its program help individuals access essential resources, remain housed and maintain independence and community connections. The agency also described plans for Center Life Navigation, a care-management service intended to help older adults and caregivers coordinate healthcare. Housing, benefits and related supports.

See video at 44:21

7. National Alliance on Mental Illness- Cook County North Suburban (NAMI CCNS)

Presentation by Laura Piel Martin and Dave Ray. 2027 funding: $6,000.

NAMI Cook County North Suburban offers free mental health education, peer and family support, advocacy and community outreach. Its programs include support groups, family education, youth programming and workshops intended to increase understanding of mental illness and connect people with available resources. Its services seek to reduce stigma and strengthen ongoing support for individuals and families.

See video at 59:00

8. Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center.

Presentation by Andrea Kszystyniak. 2027 funding request: $4,500.

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center provides free and confidential, trauma-informed services to survivors of sexual violence and their families. Programs include counseling, advocacy, prevention education and community outreach, with an emphasis on helping survivors access support and navigate the recovery process. Its services also promote public awareness and education to strengthen prevention and community response.

See video at 1:11:19

Supervisor Jones announced a short break at 7:24 p.m.

The Board meeting resumed at 7:31pm

9. Northwest Compass, Inc.

Presentation by Alison Pittas. 2027 funding request $15,000.

Northwest Compass supports individuals and families experiencing housing instability, food insecurity and financial hardship. Services included housing counseling, homelessness prevention, emergency assistance, food distribution and referrals to community resources. The agency also assists older adults, veterans and people affected by domestic violence. Its programs are designed to help residents address immediate needs while improving household stability and access to longer-term support.

See video at 1:21:44

10. Miracle House

Presentation by Staci Diez and Kathy Matousek. 2027 funding request: $20,000.

Miracle House in Des Plaines provides transitional housing and structured recovery support for women age 18 and older recovering from addiction. Residents participate in recovery activities, attend support meetings and engage in community service as they work toward stable and independent living.

See video at 1:26:51

11. Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County

Presentation by Luna Spivey. 2027 funding request $7,000.

The Children's Advocacy Center coordinates services for children who have experienced abuse or witnessed violent crimes. Its multidisciplinary approach includes forensic interviews, victim advocacy, medical and therapeutic referrals and coordination with law enforcement and child protection professionals. Its programs are intended to reduce additional trauma; support affected children and families and facilitate access to appropriate services.

See video at 1:37:03

12. Leyden Family Service and Mental Health Center

Presentation by Jennifer Hamilton. 2027 funding request: $100,354.

North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic (NSLAC) is a nonprofit organization providing free, accessible civil legal services to low-income individuals and families in northern Cook and Lake Counties. NSLAC focuses on three core practice areas; housing, immigration, and domestic violence. The agency helps clients stabilize their lives through legal assistance that promotes safety, housing security, and family unity. In addition to legal representation NSLAC offers community outreach, education, and partnerships with social service providers to connect clients with supportive resources. Services include eviction prevention, housing disputes, immigration relief, and legal protection for survivors of domestic violence.

See video at 1:41:21

13. The Harbour

Presentation by Melody Rose. 2027 funding request $10,000.

The Harbour serves youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability in the northern and northwestern suburbs of Cook County. The organization provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling, educational assistance, life-skills development and employment preparation. Programs help young people meet immediate safety and housing needs while developing the skills and support networks needed for greater independence and lasting stability.

See video at 1:47:52

14. Clearbrook

Presentation by Jessica Smart. 2027 funding request: $3,000.

Clearbrook supports children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Programs include early intervention, therapeutic services, residential and community-based support, employment opportunities and assistance with daily living. The agency described continued development of early intervention and community services. Its programs are intended to foster individual growth, independence and meaningful participation in community life.

See video at 1:55:15

15. Kids Above All

Presentation by Andrew Dohan. 2027 funding request: $3,400.

Kids Above All supports children and families affected by poverty, violence and trauma through programs focused on child development, family stability and access to basic necessities. Its services provide essential items and supportive resources to help families address immediate needs and build a stronger foundation for well-being.

See video at 2:00:42

16. Board Game Buddies

Presentation by Frank DeCicco. 2027 funding request: $1,500.

Board Game Buddies promotes inclusion, social connection and community participation through organized board game activities. Its programs welcome people who may experience social isolation, including individuals facing mental health challenges, developmental disabilities or substance use recovery needs. The agency requested support to expand recreational opportunities that encourage friendships, communication and engagement in a supportive setting.

See video at 2:06:50

Several questions were asked during presentations by the Agency Funding committee: Supervisor Jones, Trustee Horvath, Trustee Maher, Trustee Malik, Trustee Lynch, Vicki Rizzo, Marie Dachniwsky, Kathy Sabbini, Richard Lyon and Marty Cook which were answered by the presenters.

MaineStay Agency and Program Coordinator Iain Parker stated that recommendation amounts from the Administrator and Department Heads will be included in the November Board packet. He asked the Board of Trustees to submit their recommendations by the December Board Meeting. Mr. Parker said that the Trustees' recommendations will be added to the chart and then the average from the Board and Staff will be calculated. He stated that the 2027-2028 Grant will be presented in January 2027.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Lynch	Motion to Adjourn.
Trustee Horvath	Second.

All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24p.m.

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Maine Township Clerk