

Maine Township Agency Funding Special Meeting October 7, 2025

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, Malik, and Lynch.

Others in attendance: Vicki Rizzo, Marie Dachniwsky, Luz Meneses, Richard Lyon, Ian Parker, Cassy Horton, Amy C. Fox, Jennifer Hamilton, Lina Modestas, Luna Spivey, Joseph Like, Melody Rose, Nicole Coomer, Angelica Schab, Martina Cortez, Jennifer Sultz, Trisha Breitlow, Andrea Kszystyniak, Greg Davenport, Nicole Meunier, Arshia Hasnain, Andrew Dohan and Jessica Guzman.

Supervisor Jones called the special meeting to order at 6:01 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. Pickles group

Presentation by Cassy Horton. 2026 funding request: \$12,000.

Pickles is a nonprofit organization founded by three families the local community to provide emotional and social support for children who have a aren't with cancer. Originally created in partnership with Kelsey Moran, a licensed child life specialist, Pickles Group launched in 2021 with a peer-to-peer program for kids navigating a parent's cancer diagnosis. The organization anchors its programs in research-based best practices for children's mental health and development. Since its founding, Pickles Group has grown rapidly across the North Shore and Chicagoland area, expanding its impact through partnerships with hospitals, mental health providers, and community-based organizations. It offers group programs, resources, and support to help families navigate the emotional challenges of a parent's cancer journey.

See video at 1:34

2. Life Span

Presentation by Amy C. Fox. 2026 funding request: \$15,000.

Founded in 1978, Life Span is a nonprofit organization serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence in cook county. Its mission is to empower survivors to demand safety as a human right and to change social attitudes toward abuse through accountability, community engagement, and systemic advocacy. Life Span provides free services, including counseling, legal representation, advocacy, education, and crises intervention, with a focus on helping abused women and their children rebuild their lives. Recently, Life Span introduced Cafecito, an informal community gathering space at both its downtown Chicago and Des Plaines offices, where survivors can connect, share experiences, and build relationships in a welcoming environment. The agency also began hosting Family Nights and Open Houses to foster community connections and provide information about available resources and services.

See video at 9:58

3. Leyden Family Service and Mental Health Center

Presentation by Jennifer Hamilton. 2026 funding request: \$107,702.

Leyden Family Service & Mental Health Center is a 501 (c) (3) Joint Commission- accredited community mental health organization serving the community since 1950. Leyden provides a comprehensive range of behavioral health services for adults, adolescents, children, couples, and families. Our continuum of care includes outpatient mental health therapy, 24/7 crisis services, psychiatric evaluation and medication management including telepsychiatry, case management, benefit assistance, transition living, peer support center, and a food pantry. Leyden operates a 56-bed inpatient rehabilitation program for adults with substance use disorders, offering detoxification, inpatient care, and outpatient treatment.

See video at 18:05

4. Older Adult Services – Home Delivered Meals

Presentation by Lina Modestas. 2026 funding request: \$6,000.

Older Adult Services enriches the lives of older adults through programs that support independence, safety, and well-being. Services include Information & Referral (I&R), the Personal Emergency Response System (PERS), and long-standing Adult Day Services (ADS) program. We offer Expressions a day program for those with early memory loss; Senior Advocate/ SHIP support for Medicare assistance; and counseling, support groups, and education programs. Older Adult Services provide the Matter of Balance fall-prevention course and growing Home Delivered Meals (HDM) program for homebound older adults and adults with disabilities.

See video at 37:07

5. Children’s Advocacy

Presentation by Luna Spivey. 2026 funding request: \$6,000.

The Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) of North and Northwest Cook County provides comprehensive, coordinated services for children who are alleged victims or witnesses of abuse or other crimes. CAC assists with investigating processes, forensic interviews, victim advocacy, and medical and therapeutic services at no cost. All services are available in English and Spanish and include support for the child’s non-offending family members. CAC operates using a multidisciplinary team approach, partnering with law enforcement, child protection, and the courts to provide forensic interviews, advocacy, and trauma therapy. The organization also promotes community education and professional training to raise awareness and build expertise in responding to childhood trauma.

See video at 43:55

6. Orchard Village

Presentation by Joseph Like. 2026 funding request: \$4,480.

Orchard Village is a charitable organization in Skokie, Illinois, dedicated to improving the lives of more than 300 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The agency helps people with IDD live, work and fully participate in their communities by providing a range of essential services. These include 12 fully monitor 24-hour residential homes throughout suburban Cook County, educational programs, job training and mental health services. In recent years, Orchard Village has expanded to include enhanced community-based employment support, behavioral health services, and specialized transition programs for young adults.

See video at 43:55

7. The Harbour, Inc.

Presentation by Melody Rose. 2026 funding request: \$10,000.

The Harbour is a 501 (c) (3) community-based nonprofit that has served homeless and at -risk youth in northern and northwestern suburban Cook County for over 50 years. As a licensed Child Welfare Agency through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), The Harbour provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, case management, and supportive services to help youth achieve safety and stability. The Board of Directors provides governance and oversight for all administrative, financial, and service operations. Recently, The Harbour implemented hotel voucher assistance for youth who cannot be housed in this shelter. The agency is also developing host home placement options to expand safe housing choices for youth in crisis.

See video at 52:12

Supervisor Jones announced a short break.

Trustee Malik excused himself from East Maine School District 63 Foundation hearing.

The Board meeting resumed at 7:25pm

8. Center of Concern

Presentation by Nicole Coomer. 2026 funding request: \$55,000.

The Center of Concern is a nonprofit social service agency providing critical housing, community, and older adult services to residents in need, enabling them to live with dignity and independence. Founded in 1978, the agency now serves more than 2,000 clients annually with a staff of over 30 and a network of 300 volunteers. All services are designed to be comprehensive and complementary, connecting clients with resources that allow them to thrive. Services include companionship visits, telephone reassurance, workshops, senior housing and insurance counseling, and a newer-offerings such as the Memory Café and Dementia Caregiver Support Group.

See video at 1:03:50

9. District 63 Education Foundation-Expanded Learning

Presentation by Angelica Schab. 2026 funding request: \$25,000.

The D63 Foundation plays a vital role in supporting the community and schools of East Maine School District 63. Through initiatives such as the Expanded Learning Program, Family Resource Center, and Open Gym, the Foundation provides essential academic, social, and recreational opportunities for students and families. It also manages the D63 Marketplace, which distributes food, household items, and other essentials to families facing financial insecurity, including many new to the country. In addition, the Foundation offers financial assistance to D63 families in need, particularly those experiencing housing or food instability. The D63 Foundation's contributions have grown steadily, matching the increasing needs of local families and youth.

See video at 1:15:34

10. Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center

Presentation by Jennifer Sultz. 2026 funding request: \$50,000.

Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center, located in Skokie, is a nonprofit outpatient mental health center that has served individuals and families for over 55 years. The organization provides a range of services including individual and group therapy, case management, residential living programs, and free crisis intervention through The Living Room program. In FY2025, Turning Point served 1,110 clients, with over 90% from low-income households. The agency continues to expand its crisis support initiatives. Recently, Turning Point launched an extension of its Living Room program in Evanston and introduced a mobile Living Room unit, which travels throughout the area to provide education, outreach, and emotional support.

See video at 1:27:17

11. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR)

Presentation by Trisha Breitlow. 2026 funding request: \$6,000.

The Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR) provides children, teens, and adults with disabilities access to meaningful and enriching recreation and leisure opportunities. Established in 1972, M-NASR partners with the park districts of Des Plaines, Golf Maine, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge, Skokie, and Lincolnwood. Programs are designed to meet the diverse needs of participants through small staff-to-participant ratios, adaptive equipment, accessible facilities, and transportation support. M-NASR offers year-round programming across a wide range of interests and abilities, including athletics, fitness, cultural arts, aquatics, bowling, day camps, Special Olympics, social outings, virtual programs, and in-school leisure education.

See video at 1:37:44

12. Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center.

Presentation by Andrea Kszystyniak. 2026 funding request: \$5,000.

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center, established in 1983, is Lake County only state accredited rape crisis center. The organization provides free, confidential services to individuals impacted by sexual violence and delivers trauma-informed prevention education throughout Lake and Northern Cook Counties. ZCenter operates locations in Gurnee and Skokie, both designed to be accessible, welcoming and healing-centered. Its mission is to mobilize the community toward ending systemic sexual violence while amplifying

survivors' voices through advocacy, education, and compassionate care. ZCenter continues to expand its prevention education and community outreach programs to address the evolving needs of survivors and promote culturally responsive, inclusive education for all ages.

See video at 1:46:19

13. North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic

Presentation by Greg Davenport. 2026 funding request: \$10,000.

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 1:55:21

14. Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault (NWCASA)

Presentation by – Nicole Meunier. 2026 funding request: \$12,000.

Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault (NWCASA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals impacted by sexual violence and promoting community engagement to end sexual harm. NWCASA provides free, trauma-informed services including counseling for survivors and their loved ones 24/7 advocacy at hospitals emergency rooms, legal advocacy at police departments and courthouses, crisis hotline services, information and referral assistance, and sexual assault prevention education. The agency also offers community outreach and professional training in both English and Spanish.

See video at 2:05:20

15. Empowering Women

Presentation by Arshia Hasnain. 2026 funding request: \$20,000.

Empowering Women NFP is a Chicago-Based nonprofit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of gender-based violence. The agency provides trauma informed and culturally responsive services focused on the needs of underserved communities, particularly women and families of color. Core services include counseling, legal advocacy, case management, and workforce development initiatives, including new training opportunities in digital literacy and sewing skills to support economic empowerment for survivors.

See video at 2:12:01

16. Kids Above All

Presentation by Dan Kotowski. 2026 funding request: \$10,000.

Founded in 1894, Kids Above All (KAA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building better lives for children and families impacted by poverty, violence, and systemic injustice. Serving Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Lake counties, KAA empowers clients to achieve independence and long-term success through early childhood education, supportive housing, and trauma-informed counseling services. Last year, KAA served more than 4,100 children and families, providing critical resources and support to help them reach their full potential.

See video at 2:19:38

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, Luz Meneses and Richard Lyon 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 explained that the Trustees' recommendations will be added to the chart, after which the average of the

Board and staff recommendations will be calculated. Pending approval—likely in December—the contracts will be issued in January 2026.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Maher Motion to adjourn.

Trustee Horvath Second.

Motion on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Jones Yes

Trustee Horvath Yes

Trustee Maher Yes

Trustee Malik Left before the Adjournment

Trustee Lynch Yes

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Maine Township Clerk