

COVID-19 Budget Impacts Community Budget Conversations

Kate Lewis-Lakin, Budget Coordinator Kimberly Richardson, Interim Assistant City Manager

September 16, 2020



MEETING INTENTIONS

- 1. Provide information about the City's budget and budgeting process.
- 2. Receive feedback about what your priorities are in this year's budget. Feedback will be shared with City Council.
- 3. Share upcoming opportunities for engagement in the 2021 budget.



COMMUNITY BUDGET CONVERSATIONS

- Thursday, September 10: Budget 101
- Wednesday, September 16: COVID-19 Budget Impacts
- Monday, September 21: Budgeting for Health & Human Services

Information and registration links available here



AGENDA

- Presentation (30 mins)
 - Budget basics
 - COVID-19 revenue impacts 2020
 - Grant funding for COVID-19 response
 - Planning for 2021 budget
- Breakout Room Discussions (30 mins)
- Report out and wrap-up (15 mins)



BUDGET BASICS



BUDGET BASICS

The City's Budget is divided into **36 funds** and organized by **departments.**

Funds - Largest financial unit of the budget. Ex. General Fund, Water Fund, TIF Funds.

Departments - Functional unit of government. Ex. Police and Fire



BUDGET BASICS

Some key acronyms:

PRCS - Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

PWA - Public Works Agency (includes public services, water, sewer, solid waste, and capital improvements)

HHS - Health & Human Services Department



2020 Total City Budget = \$320,709,230





Types of Funds:

- **General** General operating fund and Human Services fund
- **Library** Funds supporting the Evanston Project Library
- Capital Funds Major capital improvement projects, includes Crown Community Center project
- **Enterprise Funds** Funds supported by user fees (Parking, Water, Sewer, Solid Waste)

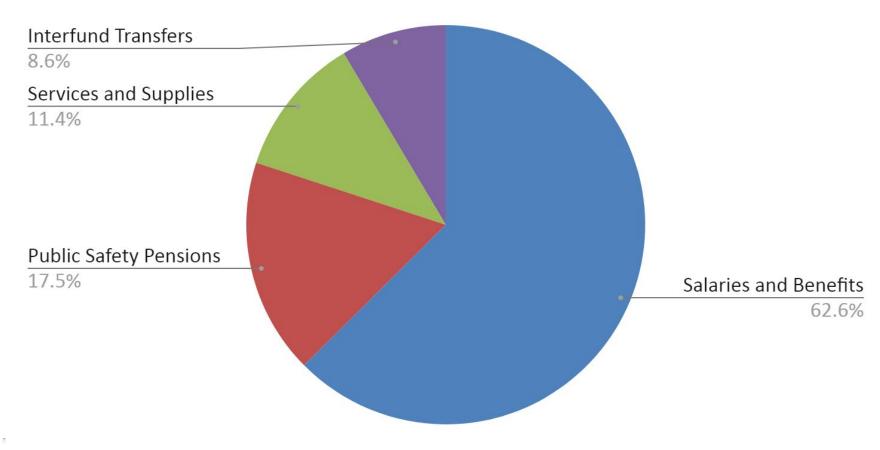


Types of Funds:

- Special Revenue and TIF Funds To track funding from specific state and federal grants sources
- **Internal Services** Funds that serve city operations, supported by transfers from all other funds. Ex. Fleet Maintenance, Insurance Fund
- **Debt Service Funds** For annual payments on City bonds
- **Police and Fire Pension Funds** Pension funds held in trust by the City, controlled by separate Pension Boards

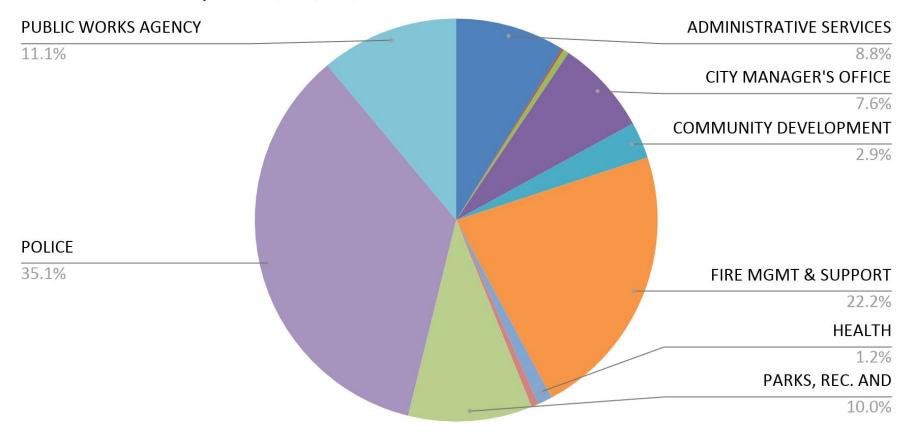


2020 Total General Fund Budget = \$117,200,491





2020 General Fund Expenses= \$117,200,491



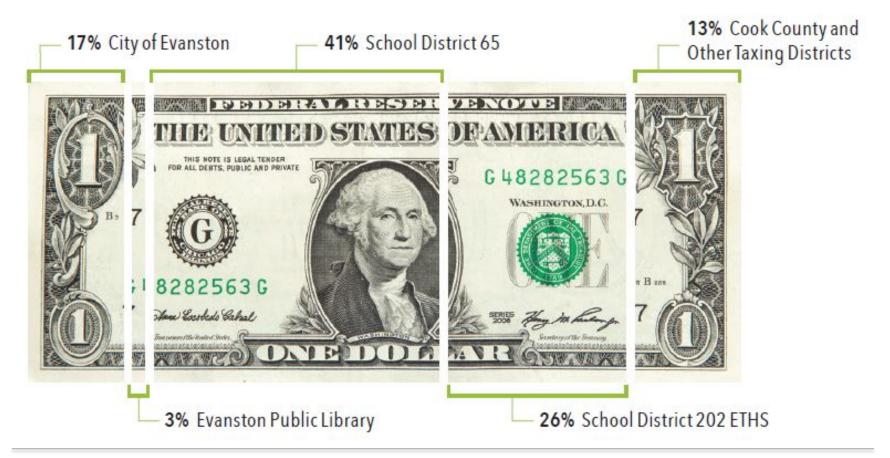


COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPACTS



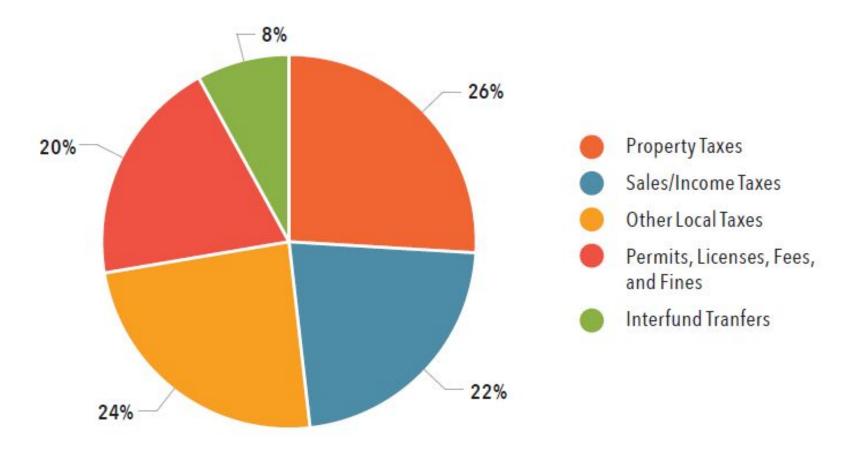
PROPERTY TAXES

For every dollar you pay in property tax, the City receives 17 cents.





GENERAL FUND REVENUE



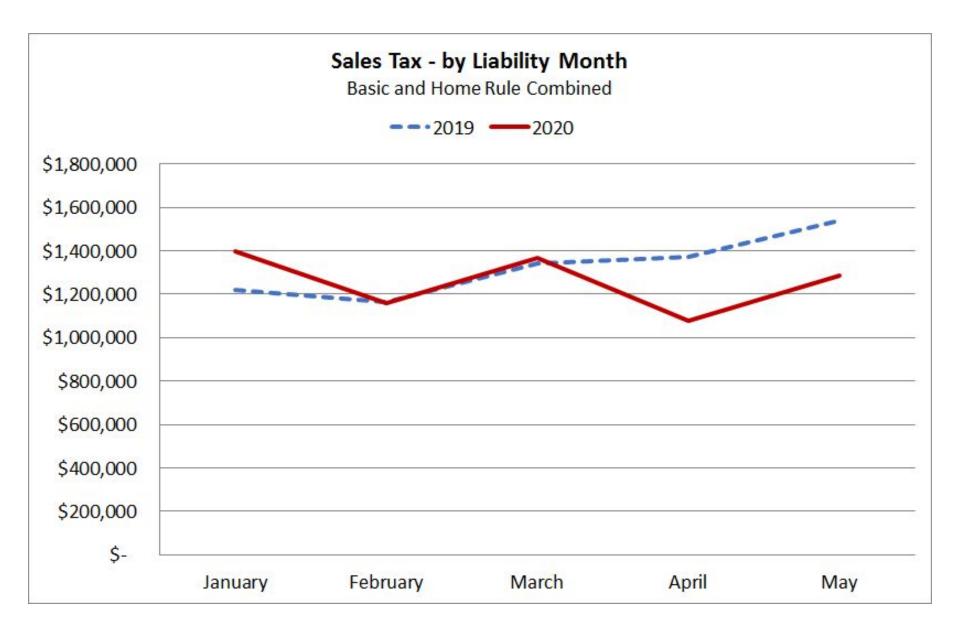


2020 BUDGET

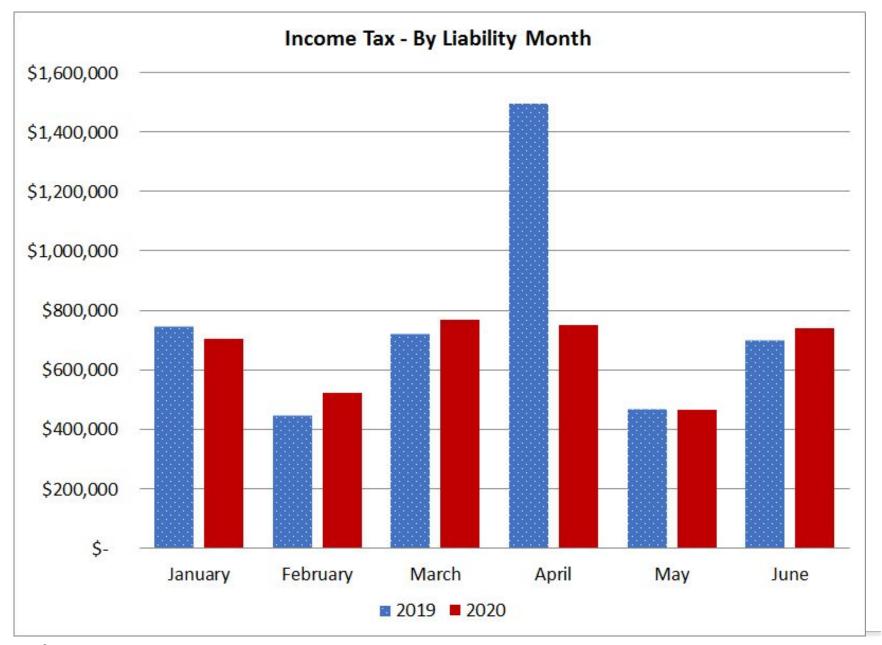
COVID-19 Revenue Shortfalls

- Projected revenue shortfall in General Fund is \$12 million for 2020
- Sales and income taxes 20% losses
- Other revenues severely impacted: amusement tax, hotel tax, parking revenue, recreation program fees

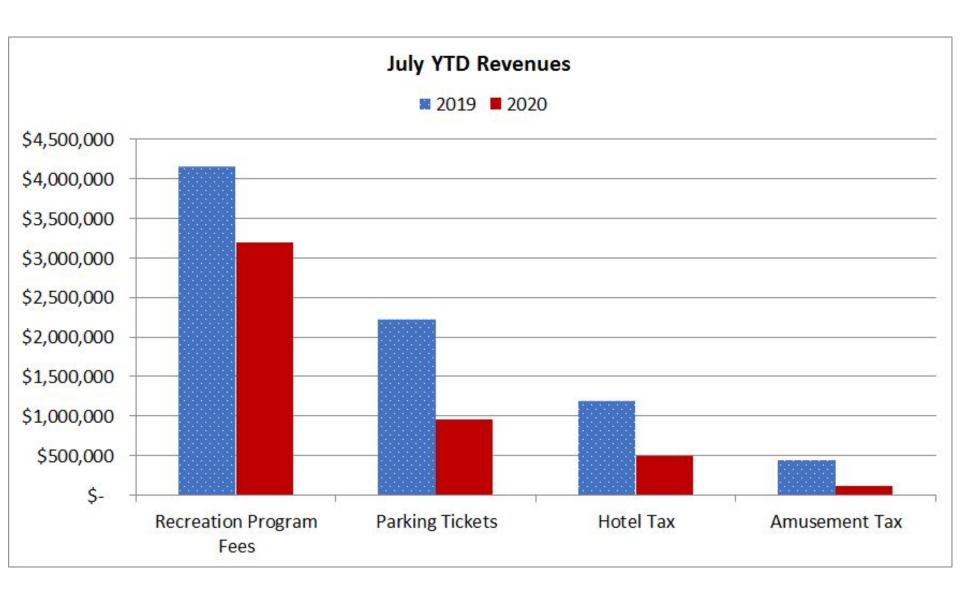














2020 BUDGET

Steps taken to address COVID-19 revenue shortfalls in 2020:

- 10 furlough days for City employees
- 12 employee layoffs
- Hiring freeze since March 2020; approximately 50 positions held vacant
- Restrictions on discretionary spending by all departments



COVID-19 GRANT FUNDING



GRANT FUNDING

Currently, grant funding can only be used for expenses deemed directly related to COVID-19.

Grant funding expected = approximately \$4.5 million

However, this is at least partially offsetting new, non-budgeted expenses. It cannot be used to directly offset revenue losses.



GRANT FUNDING

Major Grant Sources

- FEMA Public Assistance 75% of submitted expenses; \$814,727 expected reimbursement
- CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds Cook County \$619,214
- COVID-19 Contact Tracing Grant \$817,632 to hire temporary positions for contact tracing program through June 2021
- CDBG- CV \$1,080,243 Federal program, specific to programs that benefit low-moderate income residents
- ESG-CV \$966,314 Federal program, similar to CDBG above



2021 BUDGET CHALLENGES



BUDGETING FOR 2021

Revenue loss of **\$5-7 million** expected in 2021 budget, due to continued COVID-19 crisis and economic downturn.

Affected revenues:

Sales tax, income tax, hotel tax, amusement tax, athletic event tax (NU football), parking fees and enforcement, recreation fees



BUDGETING FOR 2021

Expected steps to address shortfalls in 2021

- Continued hiring freeze and holding of vacancies
- Elimination of some vacant positions
- Continued restrictions on discretionary spending
- Focus on addressing health and human services needs during pandemic
- Obtaining all possible grant revenues for pandemic response



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- 1. Are you satisfied with the the City's COVID-19 response so far? If not, how can the City improve?
- 2. What services should the City prioritize to respond to COVID-19?
- 3. How can we ensure the City's COVID-19 response is reaching all communities in Evanston?
- 4. Are there any other issues the city should focus on related to COVID-19?



MORE INFORMATION

Budget Website: <u>cityofevanston.org/budget</u>

- Friday, October 9: Proposed Budget available on City website
- Monday, October 19: Budget Public Hearing during
 City Council Meeting
- Monday, October 26: Truth in Taxation Public Hearing at City Council Meeting
- October and November: Budget Discussions at City
 Council Meetings

