In the Spring of 2018, the Town Board adopted our Mission and Vision Statements and articulated a new set of values to sharpen our focus on the positive impact of the Township in the community. Thanks to the support of residents, and the hard work of our staff, volunteers, and our elected and appointed officials, the Township remains a vital partner in the community. We work closely with the other taxing bodies, with local non-profit and for-profit agencies for the benefit of the residents of Oak Park, particularly seniors, youth, and people living with behavioral health and substance use issues, as well as people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Township also serves people facing financial hardship and individuals and families who are dealing with homelessness, as well as home owners seeking assistance filing property tax appeals.

We appreciate the support from residents and taxpayers, and the opportunity to share this report on our activities and finances for Fiscal Year 2019 (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019). During this period our staff and volunteers, as well as the agencies that we fund and support, provided services to over 15,000 people.
I. Township Services

II. Impact Stories

III. Service Summary

IV. Looking Ahead: FY20 Goals

VI. Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Summary
Oak Park Township Services
www.oakparktownship.org 105 S. Oak Park Ave.
Service  Community  Caring
Information and Referral provided in all service areas

Senior Services*  (708) 383-8060
130 S. Oak Park Avenue
Services for seniors, 60 years and older
Case Management, Dining Programs, Home Delivered Meals, Caregiver Support, Information and Assistance, Advocacy, Money Management, Great Neighbors Program, Adult Protective Services, Memory Cafe

Services for seniors, 60 years and older and persons, 18 and older, with disabilities
Transportation Services, Abuse investigation, Home Energy Assistance, Health Insurance Assistance, Key Box for emergency entry, Benefit Access Applications for license plate discount and RTA free ride pass, and Options Counseling to assist independent living.

Special Services  (708) 383-8005
Adult Financial Aid – for single adults, unemployed or applying for Social Security Disability Insurance
Food Assistance referral information
Links to Health Care – referrals to State and County assistance
Medical Equipment – free loan of donated, gently used, medical equipment
Notary Services, Taxi Cab Coupons
Assessor Services – help with appeals, homeowner and senior exemptions and freezes, records of residential sales and trends, and other property tax-related information.
Voter Services – help with registration, absentee ballot forms, and information.

Community Mental Health Board
Provides guidance and funding to agencies; funds The Hub, an online database connecting people to behavioral health and other social services. https://healthconnectionhub.org/ or contact the CMHB Office at (708) 358-8855

Youth Services*  (708) 445-2727
Youth Interventionist Program
The Interventionist Team helps youth make better life choices, obtain extra support and counseling services.

T.I.M.E.– community service
Court diversion program and referral to other supportive services on as-needed basis.

Contracted Programs
The Youth Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships contracts with over 20 agencies, offering more than 50 educational and recreational programs that engage young residents. The Committee recommends funding to address the unique needs of youth in middle adolescence as they approach transition periods that may derail their progress and ultimate success.

Prevention Services  (708) 383-8005
Provides education, support and awareness to reduce underage alcohol and substance abuse.
FACE-IT Program
Substance abuse prevention education – youth attend sessions with a parent. Topics include the effects of drugs and improving communication.

* Also serving River Forest Township
General Assistance is a locally administered program that provides financial assistance to eligible Oak Park residents in accordance with the Illinois Department of Human Services guidelines, and offers referrals, information regarding eligibility for other programs, as well as other assistance.

“I am a long-time resident of Oak Park. As a college graduate with an advanced degree, I was fulfilled in my career and never anticipated being in a situation of unemployment and vast financial worry. Oak Park Township’s General Assistance Program was there to help in many ways. There is financial assistance to help with housing costs and other expenses; as well as guidance on other sources of assistance. There is help with finding employment through the Job Readiness Program (operated by Housing Forward with costs for Township GA clients covered by the Township), that is tailored to the specific job seeker’s needs. For example; resume building, job searching, mock interviews, etc. There are other events associated with the General Assistance Program, such as job fairs, seminars and speakers, etc. Lastly, the mandatory community volunteerism piece associated with the program helps others in need and helps the volunteer feel that they are important contributors to society while they are in the midst of personal/financial turmoil. The volunteer aspect has helped me take the focus off my issues and express gratitude. It has been a pleasure working with Ms. Dugal, and I am very grateful for this program! Thank you to Oak Park Township for this vital help and great program!”
The Youth Interventionist Program provides comprehensive and customized support to both youth and their families in the Oak Park community. Our partnerships and collaborations with outside organizations ensure that our youth and their families are linked to relevant resources that are personalized to their specific needs.

**Youth Services**

An unemployed father with three young children was homeless and trying hard to keep his family going while dealing with issues of abandonment. The children were struggling and often had to accompany their father to whatever work he could find.

This family's Youth Interventionist coordinated a large team of resources from within the township, the school district and local police, and local organizations, such as Housing Forward to help the family obtain housing, food, healthcare and other services.

The family is now doing well, and has medical care, clothing, food and school supplies. The father holds several jobs and housing is more stable. The children have consistency and safety in their lives. The older two love school and the youngest child now has full-time daycare so the father can work.
The Community Mental Health Board assists in planning, developing, coordinating, evaluating, and funding mental health services in Oak Park. This includes services for persons with mental disorders, alcohol or other drug dependence or developmental disorders. The Township’s Community Mental Health Fund provides financial support for programs and services to 12-20 agencies per year in Oak Park.

Community Mental Health Board

The UCP Seguin Supported Employment program, funded in part by the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, supports residents of Oak Park with developmental disabilities by providing job development, job placement, job-coaching, and other direct services to enable these individuals to have meaningful, productive, gainful work.

“My daughter is proud of her 6-year work history at Whole Foods which wouldn’t be possible without the assistance of Margarita and other UCP Seguin job coaches, funded by the Oak Park Mental Health Board grants, who work with her to keep her on task. They are encouraging and supportive, but also set expectations for her for good work habits such as being friendly and helpful to customers, wearing her apron uniform, which she wears proudly with her 5 year anniversary pin, and being punctual.”

“Thanks to UCP Seguin, her duties have expanded at the River Forest library, where she volunteers, as her job coaches recognized her ability to do more tasks to support the library - a win-win for both the library and her expanding vocational skills.”

Oak Park Township - www.oakparktownship.org - 708-383-8005
Senior Services Transportation offers transportation services to our residents 60 years and older and to persons aged 18 and older with disabilities. Service is provided curb-to-curb within Oak Park and River Forest, and all buses are equipped with lifts for full accessibility. Safe, reliable, and inexpensive service can be arranged for any purpose, including: medical appointments, social activities, and errands. Donations are gladly accepted, and no passenger is refused service based on the ability to pay.

"Thank You!

I am forever grateful to you for arraigning transportation for my mother to attend her 100th birthday party at the Pleasant Home. It was your willingness that allowed us to give her the most beautiful celebration possible! Lori (driver) was timely, efficient, patient and generous with her time – a lovely person!

Thank you so much for what you do! Know that you are deeply appreciated. May you be blessed with joy and peace the season."
The Prevention Services Department of Oak Park Township works to enhance the quality of life in the community. We provide support through education and raising awareness to many of the physical and mental health challenges facing youth and their families with a focus on reducing underage drinking and substance abuse. As a way to educate and bring awareness of these issues, we offer many resources and programs within the community.

**Prevention Services**

The FACE-IT Program is an evidence based; family-focused alcohol, tobacco and other drug education, prevention, and early intervention program for youth and their parents or caregivers. Here's what participants have said about the program:

“Great program. My son and I have better communication because of this program.”

“I now understand how abusing alcohol can negatively affect my parents and friends, and I don't want to do that to them.”

“I really believe that this program has helped me as much as my family. Now we all share our thoughts and problems.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Summary</th>
<th>Paratransit Rides Provided</th>
<th>Senior Meals Served</th>
<th>Medical Equipment Loans</th>
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<tr>
<td>20,132</td>
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<th>Taxi Coupons Sold</th>
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<th></th>
<th>Residents Received</th>
<th>Units of Service</th>
<th>Youth &amp; Families Received</th>
<th>Home Visits from Youth Interventionists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,608</td>
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<td>34,000+</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>213</td>
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Oak Park Township - [www.oakparktownship.org](http://www.oakparktownship.org) - 708-383-8005
Looking ahead...

Each of the Township’s departments have identified a number of goals they will pursue during the next fiscal year (FY20). Below are highlights from each department for the upcoming year.

**The Community Mental Health Board** will:
- work with the local school districts to bring supportive services to staff, students and caregivers through an integrated model of behavioral healthcare.
- establish the Health Connections Hub referral database to connect community members to the behavioral health and other social services and allow providers to follow up on those referrals.

**General Assistance** will:
- develop and host training opportunities and job fairs to enhance opportunities for unemployed clients to acquire employment.
- continue to develop relationships with service providers that will serve as resources to meet clients’ needs.

**Prevention Services** will:
- continue to implement evidence-based strategies to lower rates of alcohol use by youth as reported on the Illinois Youth Survey.
- expand the efforts of the Workgroup for Positive Youth Development (+PYD) to address other drugs and populations.

**Senior Services** will:
- work closely with community partners to pursue the Dementia Friendly community designation for River Forest and Oak Park.
- provide Memory Cafes, a safe space for people dealing living with memory loss and their care partners to connect, share a meal, and enjoy recreational and educational opportunities.

**Youth Services** will:
- update and upgrade its database for tracking clients and outcomes for the Youth Interventionist Program in order to enhance accountability with our funding partners and the community.
- expand the Youth Interventionist Program to address trauma, anxiety and depression as those issues have increased among youth in the community.

**Township Administration** will:
- develop new security and safety policies and procedures at both locations and provide training to all staff to increase safety and to manage risk.
- offer employee wellness programs to decrease health related costs, such as medical insurance and absences, by offering exercise classes, educational opportunities, and fitness incentives.

**Finance** will:
- transition from the current accounting software to QuickBooks in order to improve access to information for the departments and transparency for the public.
Financial Summary

FY19 Revenues by Source - $6,597,105

- Property Taxes: 71.7%
- General Assistance: 5.0%
- Operating Grants: 13.0%
- Community Mental Health: 27.1%
- Miscellaneous & Insurance: 2.4%
- Interest: 1.5%
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF): 2.5%
- Personal Property Replacement Tax: 1.4%
- Charges for Services: 7.6%

FY19 Expenditures by Category - $6,454,759

- Senior Services: 40.5%
- Community Mental Health: 27.1%
- General Government: 17.5%
- General Assistance: 5.0%
- Youth Services: 9.9%

Revenues and Expenses FY15-FY20

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Oak Park Township - www.oakparktownship.org - 708-383-8005