

General Assistance (Per 2016 Audit Reports Obtained from Illinois Comptroller's Website)

Township	Revenue	Administrative Expense	Services & Grants (including Home Relief)	Services & Grants as a percentage of revenue
Maine Township (Cook)	\$1,170,729	\$678,583	\$196,101	17%
Berwyn Township (Cook)	\$302,428	\$145,711	\$65,493	22%
Hanover Township (Cook)	\$391,618	\$183,151	\$193,289	49%
City of Evanston (Cook)*	\$878,006			
Niles Township (Cook)	\$295,935	\$102,015	\$249,654	84%
Addison Township (DuPage)	\$290,160	\$231,976	\$35,732	12%
York Township (DuPage)	\$225,100	\$120,657	\$116,549	52%
Milton Township (DuPage)	\$277,481	\$143,350	\$73,044	26%
Downers Grove Township (DuPage)	\$159,220	\$66,140	\$7,266	5%

* Because Evanston Township was dissolved, the City of Evanston administers General Assistance. The City of Evanston's 2016 Audit reflects \$804,857 in expenditures for "General Management and Support" but does not provide any detail as to how that \$804,857 was spent. Thus, one cannot determine how much was spent on administrative expenses and how much was disbursed to general assistance recipients.

Three other thoughts.

First, Maine Township's GA budget is out of line with virtually every other township. Only the City of Evanston even comes close to Maine Township's budget.

Second, every township dramatically over-budgets the amount of GA benefits it actually provides. For example, in its 2016 budget, Maine Township forecast it would provide \$402,602 in assistance; it actually spent \$196,101. The forecast of \$402,602 cannot be justified by previous years' actual assistance payments (which were \$297,411 and \$269,952 and in FY 2014 and 2015, respectively). This is typical, and it appears to happen every year in every township. The impact is this: when budgets are approved, the administrative costs might not appear to be exceedingly disproportionate to expected assistance benefits. However, when those administrative costs are compared to actual results, they are very disproportionate.

Third, as a result of over-forecasting assistance payments, Maine Township is accumulating a significant fund balance. According to the FY2016 audit, the fund balance was \$1,301,498 (i.e., approximately 6.6x the total amount of 2016 assistance payments). This practice appears to be typical of other townships.