

# McHENRY COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT CARD

MARCH 18, 2026

## LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

McHenry County is committed to the quality of life, economic betterment, and forward-thinking governance of the County on behalf of all its citizens. The County sees its position as one of leadership in the region, building collaborative relationships with municipalities and other local governments along with leading by example for property tax control. Leadership and Governance embodies the County Board’s approach to the governance of the County and interaction with internal and external partners.

### GOAL 1

Develop and implement a reporting mechanism for all County appointed Boards to report activities and initiatives to the County Board to promote accountability, enhance information sharing, and improve overall coordination and communication

- ✓ **Ongoing:** Standardized interview questions and procedures have been developed for the McHenry County Conservation District and Fire Protection District appointment processes.
- ✓ **March 2026:** At the March 12, 2026 Committee of the Whole, County Engineer Joe Korpalski presented a comprehensive program evaluation of the Division of Transportation’s Township Bridge Program.
- ✓ **March 2026:** At the March 5, 2026 Finance & Audit Committee, Chief County Assessment Officer Alejandro Benitez presented an updated overview of the Board of Review process.
- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** The Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District, the Huntley Fire Protection District, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District and Southeast Emergency Communications came before the November Law and Government Committee to discuss the many ways their departments are pursuing cooperation and efficiencies to improve services and save taxpayer money.
- ✓ **Aug. 2025:** At the August 5, 2025 Planning, Environment & Development Committee, Michael Von Bergen gave an update of the Hebron Drainage District activities and projects completed and underway.

### GOAL 2

Create standards to determine program effectiveness, efficiency, and potential cost-savings

- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.
- ✓ **Sept. 2025:** The Artificial Intelligence Workgroup presented current McHenry County AI initiatives to the Administrative Services Committee.

### GOAL 3

Explore and implement strategies to enhance regional collaboration with the County's intergovernmental partners to leverage resources, share information, and work together to identify quality solutions to current and potential challenges (e.g., control taxes, reach economies of scale, mitigate unfunded state mandates)

- ✓ **March 2026:** The County Board will review an Ordinance establishing a Film, Video and Photo Production Permit Policy. By instituting a permit requirement, the County will have the ability to assess the potential impact this activity may have and ensure the costs to public services are offset and the disruption to private property can be addressed.
- ✓ **March 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Algonquin for construction and maintenance of a remote salt storage facility. The remote facility will enable McHenry County Division of Transportation to enhance the level of service delivery available to residents in the southeast portion of the County.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** County Administrator Scott Hartman was invited to Leadership Greater McHenry County to talk with the LGMC Class of 2026 about the importance of strategic planning.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board renewed a two-year contract for the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County to manage the McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the McHenry-Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District to obtain the services of a wetland specialist to aid in providing customer service, enforcing the wetland

provisions of the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance (SMO), and reviewing permit applications based on the relevant wetland provisions of the SMO.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The 2026 Class of Leadership Greater McHenry County visited with County Administrator Scott Hartman and Deputy County Administrator Alicia Schueller, as well as Illinois State Sens. Craig Wilcox and Dave Syverson, and Reps. Suzanne Ness and Joe Sosnowski to learn more about the important work they do and what county government does for the people each day.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** Representatives from McHenry County Government joined community and civic groups and governments from across McHenry County to meet with Governor JB Pritzker at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry to discuss McHenry County's needs, food insecurity, workforce housing, and economic development.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board approved the reclassification from Director of Procurement and Special Services to Assistant County Administrator to effectively adapt to new strategic priorities, provide support for municipal economic development and infrastructure initiatives, and provide for more efficient management of its services and departments.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** The Regional Office of Education has developed the McAid Alliance, an agreement between all McHenry County school districts, the Emergency Management Agency, and the State's Attorney's Office that establishes a coordinated system for joint planning, training, emergency preparedness, and assistance in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Marengo and the Department of Planning and Development to provide professional planning services, including future development to the I-90/Rt 23 interchange, and zoning administration services to the City.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** Over 40 local government and private sector partners attended the 2025 McHenry County Municipal Partnering Initiative Annual Expo to share the latest information on permitting and stormwater requirements, cybersecurity best practices, and asset management.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** County Administrator Peter Austin and County Coordinator Chalen Daigle gave a presentation on county and municipal government shared services at the Illinois Municipal League Annual Conference.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Algonquin to design a shared salt storage facility.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized the Department of Planning and Development to engage with Baxter and Woodman Engineering to complete a comprehensive Watershed-Based Plan. As drainage projects are completed, municipalities in McHenry County and Lake County will be better able to manage significant rain events and will benefit from McHenry County's analysis of the Fox River Watershed.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement for continued police services provided by the County Sheriff Deputies to the Village of Port Barrington.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized an intergovernmental agreement that will allow the Northern Illinois Land Bank to represent the County for Acquisition of Abandoned Properties. The purpose of the Land Bank is to acquire distressed properties and return the properties to productive use.

#### **GOAL 4**

Work to encourage Springfield to help mitigate unfunded mandates and secure Federal Funding for identified local needs

✓ **Ongoing:** The County Coordinator continues to work with local governments and the County on shared service opportunities, including the McHenry County Municipal Partnering Initiative (McMPI) which recently held a bid opening for bulk water softener salt for seven agencies in McHenry County. The McMPI also recently approved their 2023 joint purchasing opportunities which were shared with all communities in McHenry County.

✓ **March 2026:** Representatives from McHenry County Government and the McHenry County Council of Governments attended the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington, DC to share our priorities and needs with our representatives in Congress.

✓ **March 2026:** McHenry County Sheriff Robb Tadelman recently traveled to Springfield to meet with legislators and highlight the innovative work the McHenry County Sheriff's Office is doing through its collaborative, multi-jurisdictional Police Social Work Program. House Bill 1329 adds our Sheriff's Office to the state-funded Co-Responder Pilot Program, ensuring our existing Police Social Work Program is recognized under the state's model.

- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the 2026 Legislative Program, which outlines priorities to pursue with the state and federal legislatures.
- ✓ **Sept. 2025:** Representatives from the McHenry County Council of Governments met with U.S. Representative Bill Foster to hear about our legislative priorities, and to update us on legislation in Washington.

## GOAL 5

Work to make the County welcoming and inclusive to all

- ✓ **March 2026:** The County Board will vote on a proclamation honoring Janiah Slaughter for winning the IHSA State Wrestling Championship, recognizing the first girls' wrestling state champion in Huntley High School's history.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.
- ✓ **Dec. 2025:** The McHenry County Sheriff's Office participated in the annual Shop With a Cop program. The mission of the Shop With a Cop program ensures each child knows they are deserving of such gifts and develops a positive relationship between local police officers and the youngest members of our community.
- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** McHenry County proudly joined the National Association of Counties and local governments nationwide in observing Operation Green Light for Veterans. Through Veterans Day, green lights are shining at county facilities to help raise awareness of the benefits that our veterans have earned, and that our Veterans Assistance Commission stands ready to help them.
- ✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution honoring McHenry County's veterans and affirming its participation in the National Association of County's Operation Green Light for Veterans.
- ✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board issued a proclamation declaring August 2025 as National Emergency Management Awareness Month to recognize the value of local

emergency management programs, support preparedness efforts, and honor the service and sacrifice of those who work to keep our communities safe.

## GOAL 6

Educate residents on County processes and how to become involved

✓ **March 2026:** County Administrator Scott Hartman and Deputy County Administrator Alicia Schueller spoke with 101.5 FM Huntley Community Radio about McHenry County government and transitioning into a new vision for county administration as they settle into their new roles.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** The McHenry County Treasurer, County Clerk and Recorder, and Chief Assessment Officer are teaming up to hold property tax workshops through November at libraries across the county. Residents will learn about available exemptions, know the impact of increasing assessments, how to protect their property with fraud alerts, and understand how tax levies, budgets, and elections affect property taxes.

## GOAL 7

Explore sustainable funding sources to reduce reliance on property taxes

✓ **Feb. 2026:** McHenry County was awarded \$1.2 million in Community Project Funding. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky selected the County's project to put forward to Congress for inclusion in the Federal Government's budget.

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board approved an ordinance regulating and imposing fees for video gaming terminals in unincorporated areas of McHenry County. The County is projected to generate upwards of \$47,500 in additional revenue.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board accepted \$25,000 in Vaccine Access Program Grant Funds that reduces the Department of Health personnel costs by \$25,000.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board accepted \$9,500 in FY26 Cemetery Relief Grant funds from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to revitalize grave markers at Valley Hi Cemetery.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The Deputy County Administrator, Scott Hartman, presented an update on mental health sales tax revenue at the County Board's Committee of the Whole. Mental Health Board services are now funded by a sales tax, which reduces the county's property tax levy.

## GOAL 8

### Improve Resiliency to Emergencies and Disasters

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution authorizing a two-year contract with Christopher B. Burke Engineering to provide secondary stormwater plan review and inspection services for the Department of Planning and Development.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** The Regional Office of Education has developed the McAid Alliance, an agreement between all McHenry County school districts, the Emergency Management Agency, and the State's Attorney's Office that establishes a coordinated system for joint planning, training, emergency preparedness, and assistance in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution supporting McHenry County ETSB with the award and implementation of a Countywide Next Generation 9-1-1 System that allows digital information to flow seamlessly from the public, through the 9-1-1 network, to emergency responders.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** Emergency Management Agency Director David Christensen gave a presentation to public information officers from local governments across McHenry County on EMA's purpose and the vital role of PIOs in disaster response and recovery.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** McHenry County Emergency Management Agency Resiliency Specialist Peter Dawson and agency director David Christensen gave a presentation on disaster resiliency efforts for the local Coordinating Council.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized the Department of Planning and

Development to engage with Baxter and Woodman Engineering to complete a comprehensive Watershed-Based Plan. As drainage projects are completed, municipalities in McHenry County and Lake County will be better able to manage significant rain events and will benefit from McHenry County's analysis of the Fox River Watershed.

**GOAL 9**

Provide training and continuing education for County Board Members

✓ **Sept. 2025:** The McHenry County Department of Planning and Development gave an informative presentation on zoning board procedures to the Committee of the Whole.

## ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

To achieve McHenry County's mission of providing the highest quality services and its vision as a leader and innovator in local government, elected officials and staff should continuously seek methods for delivering quality services with the most effective approaches while emphasizing the judicious use of resources. Additionally, County leaders recognize the value of advancing the County's administrative and programmatic affairs via an organization comprised of highly qualified, competent, and committed public servants and professionals. Innovation, stewardship, best practices, and professional development should be the hallmarks of the County's administrative functions and service delivery approaches. Organizational Advancement reflects the actions and efforts to improve the organization, and how it can efficiently and effectively carry out the business of the County with this mission in mind.

**GOAL 1**

Identify strategies to enhance integration, coordination, communication, and information-sharing between County-wide departments

✓ **Ongoing:** The County Administrator distributes a monthly e-newsletter to all employees sharing important updates.

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution authorizing the contract renewal with eSCRIBE for agenda management, live high-definition streaming of county board and committee meetings, electronic voting, board appointment tracking and closed captioning software.

## GOAL 2

Continue County-wide recruitment and retention efforts for qualified/skilled employees

✓ **March 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution to eliminate the Senior Community Develop Specialist position and restructure the Community Development Specialist position to delegate responsibilities, promote professional development, and ensure an efficient organization.

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** Elected Officials and department heads took up the annual tradition of serving food for county employees at our annual holiday luncheon. County employees also stepped up to their annual tradition of using the event to give back to the community by donating to local food pantries, Toys for Tots, the Sheriff's Office Shop With a Cop program, and the Animal Control and Adoption Center.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board approved the reclassification from Director of Procurement and Special Services to Assistant County Administrator to effectively adapt to new strategic priorities, provide support for municipal economic development and infrastructure initiatives, and provide for more efficient management of its services and departments.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution reclassifying the Community Development Specialist I and II roles to a Community Development Specialist role that will equalize teammates and further the Planning and Development Department's ability to accomplish its goals through collaboration.

### GOAL 3

Departments should collaborate on programs to maximize effectiveness and efficiency

✓ **March 2026:** The McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission convened a veterans' Mental Health Summit at the County Administration Building, bringing people and agencies together to talk about what they do and how to share resources to help our veterans. Our VAC was joined by McHenry County Court Services, the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC), Veterans Path to Hope, NAMI McHenry County, and the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Police Social Work Program.

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board authorized a contract with Alpha Controls & Services for the upgrade of the building automation system. The County saves approximately \$934,000 over the 15-year lifespan of this project by lowering energy costs and reducing major HVAC run times.

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the next Communications Strategic Plan. Communications officers across the County collaborated to identify key areas of improvement and to continue enhancing messaging capabilities over the term of this plan.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** The Regional Office of Education has developed the McAid Alliance, an agreement between all McHenry County school districts, the Emergency Management Agency, and the State's Attorney's Office that establishes a coordinated system for joint planning, training, emergency preparedness, and assistance in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

### GOAL 4

Annually select and analyze the County's mandated versus nonmandated programs for financial sustainability

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board amended the County Purchasing Ordinance to codify efficiency improvements. These changes save long-term costs by eliminating the Office of the Director of Procurement & Special Services and organizing a Procurement Division under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.

### GOAL 5

Create and maintain a living three-year financial model

✓ **Aug. 2025:** Chief Financial Officer, Kerri Wisz, gave an informative presentation on McHenry County's three-year financial model at the Committee of the Whole. The presentation can be found on the meeting portal page.

### GOAL 6

Support the Sheriff's efforts to optimize the use of the corrections facility and enhance law enforcement across McHenry County

✓ **March 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution accepting \$195,534.30 in grant funding from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board for the purchase of body worn cameras.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board authorized the purchase of portable and mobile radios for the McHenry County Sheriff, Emergency Management Agency, and the Division of Transportation to ensure coordinated communications and collaboration amongst local public safety agencies.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

McHenry County's balance of rural and suburban areas sets it apart from many other counties in the state of Illinois. While population and commercial growth are economically beneficial, that growth must be sustainable and balanced with efforts to preserve open space, agricultural land, agricultural production, and conserve the County's groundwater supply. Additionally, advances in alternative energy sources and 'green' technologies have opened the door for McHenry County to explore ways in which it can integrate sustainable alternatives into its operations. Environmental Sustainability establishes the County's priorities and commitments to ensure the preservation and protection of open space, natural resources, agricultural heritage, water supplies, air quality, and energy conservation.

### GOAL 1

Work to enhance and maintain long-term sustainability of the strong agriculture industry within the County

- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board authorized the execution of a stormwater management conservation easement to preserve the scenic and agricultural characteristics of property located in Alden Township.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

## GOAL 2

Remain aware of advancement in alternative energy sources. Develop and implement an environmental sustainability plan.

- ✓ **Ongoing:** The Planning & Development Department along with its consultants have conducted virtual and in-person visioning sessions to seek input for the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. A public survey has also been available since the summer of 2022.
- ✓ **Ongoing:** The Facilities Department is using its utility tracker software to continuously monitor building efficiency and make improvements.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The County Board authorized a contract with Alpha Controls & Services for the upgrade of the building automation system. The County saves approximately \$934,000 over the 15-year lifespan of this project by lowering energy costs and reducing major HVAC run times.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

## GOAL 3

Consider the reactivation and consolidation of drainage districts whenever future area development presents the opportunity

- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

## GOAL 4

Explore opportunities to exercise local control of solar and wind farms

## GOAL 5

Advance awareness of the water supply and demand throughout the County

- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** Water Resources Specialist, Scott Kuykendall, provided an overview of water resources and water resource leadership in McHenry County to the McHenry County Coordinating Council Meeting.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Oct. 2025:** Water Resources Specialist, Scott Kuykendall, gave two separate presentations at the Stormwater Leadership Summit on how a county-wide approach to watershed planning in McHenry County has empowered community resilience.
- ✓ **Sept. 2025:** The Planning & Development Department along with support from sponsors and the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County hosted and presented the annual Water Forum educating the public on threats to our water supply and on water resiliency efforts.
- ✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized the Department of Planning and Development to engage with Baxter and Woodman Engineering to complete a comprehensive Watershed-Based Plan. As drainage projects are completed, municipalities in McHenry County and Lake County will be better able to manage significant rain events and will benefit from McHenry County's analysis of the Fox River Watershed.
- ✓ **Aug. 2025:** McHenry County's Water Resources Specialist, Scott Kuykendall, gave a presentation to county employees on water resource management, the threats to our water, and how attendees can help protect water in McHenry County.

## ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Successful economic development is the key to achieving the County's vision of a diversified tax base and strong financial position which is necessary to ease the property tax burden of County residents. New commercial developments provide

greater employment opportunities in the County, increase the overall value of property, lessen the burden of property taxes, and broaden the diversity of government revenues allowing for better service provision. Workforce development efforts promote the availability of a skilled workforce to ensure that the human resources in the County adequately meet the needs of both new and existing businesses. Economic and Workforce Development articulates the strategies identified to advance McHenry County's economic opportunities and attend to the needs of its workforce.

### GOAL 1

Identify strategies to attract and retain a younger demographic in McHenry County

- ✓ **March 2026:** The County Board will vote on a proclamation honoring Janiah Slaughter for winning the IHSA State Wrestling Championship, recognizing the first girls' wrestling state champion in Huntley High School's history.
- ✓ **Feb. 2026:** The McHenry County Board Chairman delivered his State of the County via video, which was posted to County social media, and highlights the county's many 2025 accomplishments and laid out priorities for 2026.
- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Nov. 2025:** McHenry County was proud to host and present to the students of the Youth Program for Leadership Greater McHenry County on their local government day.
- ✓ **Sept. 2025:** Representatives from McHenry County Government attended the opening of the new ETCHED Center. Short for Education, Transportation, Community, Housing, Employment, and Daily Living Skills, the ETCHED Center will prepare students for life after high school by giving them the skills to live more independently.

### GOAL 2

Develop and implement strategies to match workforce skills with employer needs and maintain a strong working relationship with labor and trade groups, McHenry County College, and workforce development

- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The McHenry County Board was proud to stand alongside the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation at the EDC's 2025 Annual Dinner to honor several outstanding institutions with Business Recognition Awards. This year's award winners include Action Packaging, McHenry County College, Phoenix Woodworking Corp., as well as honoring retiring County Administrator Peter Austin with the Outstanding Contribution Award for his many contributions to MCEDC.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** McHenry County EDC and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity co-hosted the 2025 Business Development Roadshow at McHenry County College to provide local businesspeople with the latest program updates, learn about upcoming funding opportunities, and learn about initiatives that support business growth and economic development.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution accepting \$22,405 in grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity for the Workforce Network to cover training costs for dislocated workers who live in McHenry County.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** McHenry County College welcomed representatives from McHenry County Government at the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Manufacturing Industry Council Breakfast to learn more about the future of manufacturing and manufacturing education in McHenry County.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** Eighty high school student interns completed the Manufacturing Pathways Consortium's Summer Internship Program this year. The program has provided 361 opportunities for McHenry County high school students to gain valuable workplace skills with host manufacturers over the past four years.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The McHenry County Workforce Network installed new kiosks at the McHenry and Harvard libraries to provide patrons with one-stop access to workforce development programming, unemployment resources, and housing resources.

### GOAL 3

Develop the Route 23/I-90 corridors to act as an economic engine for the County

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Marengo and the Department of Planning and Development to provide professional planning services, including future development to the I-90/Rt 23 interchange, and zoning administration services to the City.

#### **GOAL 4**

Advocate for workforce housing availability in McHenry County through collaboration with municipalities

✓ **March 2026:** McHenry County Government joined Northpointe Development Corporation, the Housing Opportunity Development Corporation, and the City of McHenry to officially cut the ribbon for Taylor Place Apartments and further expand workforce housing in McHenry County. McHenry County Board voted to award this project \$800,000 from its Advance McHenry County program.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** The County Board accepted \$51,843 in grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity to the Workforce Network to provide adults and young adults impacted by the justice system with reintegration support and work-experience training.

✓ **Dec. 2025:** Representatives from McHenry County Government joined community and civic groups and governments from across McHenry County to meet with Governor JB Pritzker at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry to discuss McHenry County's needs, food insecurity, workforce housing, and economic development.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** Representatives from McHenry County Government joined Lake-McHenry Habitat for Humanity to celebrate their groundbreaking at Trinity Trails, which will bring 10 new homes for working families into our community. McHenry County contributed \$215,066 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding to help make this workforce housing initiative possible.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Marengo and the Department of Planning and Development to provide professional planning services, including future development to the I-90/Rt 23 interchange, and zoning administration services to the City.

# HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

A healthy population and a robust system of social services to meet the needs of the people are the cornerstone of a successful community. McHenry County recognizes how critically important it is to understand the needs of our residents and ensure those needs are met through a variety of public, private and nonprofit service providers. Ranging from public health, mental health, long term nursing care and a variety of support services and assistance programs to meet the needs of specific populations, McHenry County is committed to strategically addressing the Health and Social Services needs of the community.

## GOAL 1

Review the McHenry County Board of Health's 2026 Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan

## GOAL 2

Review the social services network in the County- continue to offer quality services, identify additional needed services, including those pertaining to homelessness, and work together for long-term operational and financial sustainability

✓ **Ongoing:** The Department of Health conducts a CHA and CHIP, also known as IPLAN, every five years to look at community health needs and develop a plan to address those needs through community partnerships.

✓ **March 2026:** The McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission convened a veterans' Mental Health Summit at the County Administration Building, bringing people and agencies together to talk about what they do and how to share resources to help our veterans. Our VAC was joined by McHenry County Court Services, the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC), Veterans Path to Hope, NAMI McHenry County, and the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Police Social Work Program.

✓ **Feb. 2026:** The McHenry County Department of Health has once again joined forces with the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center for Operation Dropbox. Now in its seventh year, Operation Dropbox will place collection boxes at participating sites throughout both counties where people can donate goods to assist local veterans and their families.

- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.
- ✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board authorized allocations of Senior Services Grant funding for program year 2026. The Senior Services Grant fund provides funding for projects at the Senior Care Volunteer Network, Veterans Path to Hope, Home of the Sparrow, Habitat for Humanity, and many more.
- ✓ **Sept. 2025:** The County Board approved a resolution accepting \$9,000 from the Illinois Department of Public Health for the Opioid Overdose Prevention program to help combat the ongoing opioid crisis.
- ✓ **Sept. 2025:** The County Board approved an agreement between McHenry County and the Senior Care Volunteer Network to provide cost-effective transportation services for seniors in the County.
- ✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board authorized \$6,000 in new award funding for the AgeGuide Foundation for Aging Grant to address social isolation and connectedness in older adults.

### GOAL 3

Review and support of the Police Social Work Program and explore opportunities for continued funding

- ✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board accepted \$150,000 in grant funding from the Community Foundation for McHenry County to support the Police Social Worker Program.

## QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

High quality infrastructure promotes economic development, ensures the functionality of the community and services, and enables residents and businesses to conduct their daily lives in a reliable and efficient manner. As used in this plan, quality infrastructure is a broad term that extends beyond the roads and transportation system and contemplates the physical systems, appurtenances, amenities, utilities, and facilities essential to support the community needs and quality of life in McHenry County. This includes high speed internet access, recreation, multi-modal transportation systems and county facilities. Quality Infrastructure captures McHenry County's key strategic

priorities for the advancement of economic, transportation and livability goals to accommodate the needs of County businesses and residents.

## GOAL 1

Evaluate the County's infrastructure system and identify strategies to routinely maintain roads and bridges, work with the State of Illinois to improve Routes 23, 47, 31, 120, 176, and 173, develop "Complete Streets" on County roads, promote the expansion of transit service in McHenry County, and implement a "Vision Zero" safety goal.

✓ **Ongoing:** MCDOT is updating its Five-Year Transportation Program (2025-2029) and will bring it forward for County Board consideration in September/October.

✓ **March 2026:** The County Board will vote on a resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Algonquin for construction and maintenance of a remote salt storage facility. The remote facility will enable McHenry County Division of Transportation to enhance the level of service delivery available to residents in the southeast portion of the County.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2026-2030 Transportation Program.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board appropriated \$720,000 for the MCRide Connect program in 2026 to continue providing an affordable, on-demand transportation option for residents of McHenry County.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board accepted \$2.25 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation for safety improvements on Charles Road to reduce fatal and severe injury crashes.

✓ **Nov. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between McHenry County and the City of Harvard for pedestrian improvements on Airport Road and McGuire Road.

✓ **Oct. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Marengo and the Department of Planning and Development to provide professional planning services, including future development to the I-90/Rt 23 interchange, and zoning administration services to the City.

✓ **Sept. 2025:** The County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with Kane County for an Advanced Traffic Management System to save costs and improve traffic flow between counties.

✓ **Aug. 2025:** The County Board passed a resolution approving the Transportation Safety Action Plan to establish a comprehensive and strategic approach to significantly reduce and ultimately eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries on our roadways.

## GOAL 2

Monitor and support ways to expand recreational opportunities for all demographics across the County

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2026-2030 Transportation Program.

✓ **Jan. 2026:** The County Board adopted the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated and harmonious development of the County. Three themes emerged to inform the plan: sustainability and resiliency, public health and wellness, and welcoming community.

## GOAL 3

Investigate the need for a stand-alone public safety building