



# 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2019

PREPARED BY: Department of Management & Budget • Sean Carlson, Deputy County Executive





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## to the residents OF OAKLAND COUNTY, MI

I am proud to present the county's Financial Summary for Fiscal Year 2019. This summary provides residents with a clear picture of county finances and explains how county government uses your tax dollars. It includes a brief discussion of select county programs and initiatives.

Oakland County has earned a reputation for fiscal excellence. Prudent fiscal management and balanced three-year budgets provide residents with outstanding services and innovative ways to deliver those services, while continuing to manage fluctuating tax revenue.

Maintaining fiscal discipline and ensuring the county lives within its means is a fundamental principle of good government. It has earned the county a AAA bond rating every year since 1998 from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's. Oakland County adopts the long-term view, the long-range vision, and has the patience and discipline to get there. Countywide elected officials work cooperatively to help manage costs.

Each year, Oakland County publishes its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The report is technical and complex – not an easy read for the average person. It contains the county's financial statements prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the standards and guidelines set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The CAFR includes an independent auditor's report stating it has reviewed the financial statements and, with reasonable assurance, found them to be complete, presented accurately and in the correct format.

Oakland County offers this financial summary to provide a simpler picture of county finances. Oakland County's Financial Summary for 2018 received the prestigious Popular Annual Financial Report Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada, which is detailed on page 20 of this document. I hope you enjoy our 2019 edition.

**David Coulter**  
Oakland County Executive



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## fiscal year 2019



**DAVID T. WOODWARD**  
CHAIRPERSON



**MARCIA GERSHENSON**  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON

### COMMISSIONERS

- Marcia Gershenson**
- Michael J. Gingell**
- Robert Hoffman**
- Janet Jackson**
- Adam Kochenderfer**
- Eileen T. Kowall**
- Thomas Kuhn**
- Christine Long**
- Penny Luebs**
- Gwen Markham**
- Gary R. McGillivray**
- Thomas Middleton**
- William Miller**
- Kristen Nelson**
- Angela Powell**
- Nancy L. Quarles**
- Michael Spisz**
- Shelley G. Taub**
- Philip J. Weipert**
- David T. Woodward**
- Helaine Zack**

### CITY/TWP OF RESIDENCE

- Bloomfield Hills
- Lake Orion
- Highland
- Southfield
- Rochester Hills
- White Lake
- Troy
- Commerce Township
- Clawson
- Novi
- Madison Heights
- Clarkston
- Farmington
- Pontiac
- Pontiac
- Southfield
- Oxford
- Bloomfield Township
- South Lyon
- Royal Oak
- Huntington Woods



# an overview OF OAKLAND COUNTY

## did you know?

The county's museums include Cranbrook Art Museum, Cranbrook Institute of Science, the Holocaust Memorial Center and Meadow Brook Hall.

Some of the world's top musicians perform at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Independence Township and Meadow Brook Amphitheatre in Rochester.

The Detroit Zoo is located in Oakland County.

Popular annual events in Oakland County include the Fire & Ice Festival; Woodward Dream Cruise; Arts, Beats & Eats and the Michigan Renaissance Festival.

Oakland County, Michigan is synonymous with excellence. Its prosperous communities, natural landscapes, premier entertainment venues, diverse restaurants, quality schools, leading medical facilities and dependable business resources offer an unparalleled quality of life for those who live, work or spend leisure time in Oakland County.

Over 1.2 million residents enjoy distinct neighborhoods including rural regions, walkable downtowns and thriving cities. Oakland County's diverse collection of cities, villages and townships offers a broad selection for every budget and lifestyle – from rolling farmland to established city neighborhoods with tree-lined streets, parks and nearby schools, and newer developments and housing options.

Businesses – from small startups to major corporations – depend on Oakland County's world-class resources, thriving business climate and proven infrastructure. The county offers a solid environment of support, with programs and technologies focused on ongoing economic growth and development.

Oakland County's top ten employers cover a diverse mix of manufacturing, health and government sectors:

1. Beaumont Health Systems
2. FCA US LLC (formerly Chrysler Group LLC)
3. General Motors Corporation
4. Henry Ford Health System
5. Ascension Michigan
6. U.S. Postal Service
7. Oakland County Government
8. Magna International of America, Inc.
9. Trinity Health
10. Continental Automotive Systems

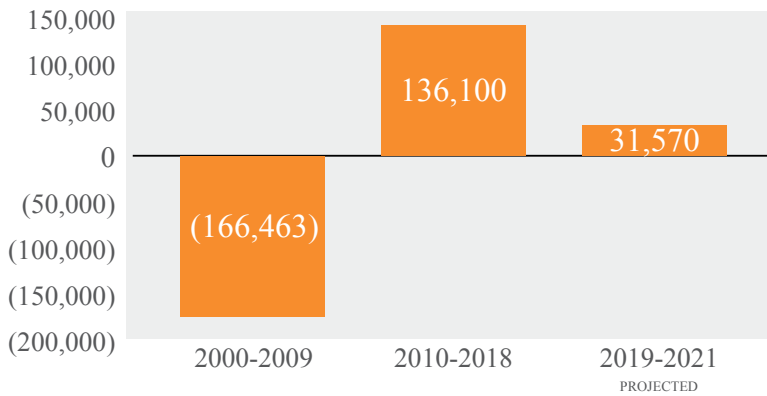
Oakland County has a reputation as home to many of the region's top educational facilities, from Pre-K through higher education to dedicated research facilities focused on high-tech skills that meet the region's increasing need for tech-savvy talent.

The County's 910 square miles are filled with natural wonders including 89,000 acres of parkland, over 1,400 lakes, rivers and streams and numerous trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. There are a wide variety of shopping experiences ranging from small boutiques to large high-end multi-level malls. Oakland County residents find it a great place to live, work, play and prosper.



# OAKLAND COUNTY'S economy

## PROJECTED JOB GROWTH IN OAKLAND COUNTY



Source: Gabriel Ehrlich and Donald Grimes, Institute for Research on Labor, Employment, and the Economy, University of Michigan

Figure 1

Oakland County is recognized as one of the most prosperous counties in the nation. Oakland County's economy is continuing to improve since the days of the "Great Recession." Oakland County is now in its tenth year of economic recovery since the recession's low point at the end of 2009. Oakland County was at its peak employment level in the third quarter of 2000, but during the recession lost 166,463 jobs by the time it reached its low point in the fourth quarter of 2009. Since then, Oakland County has recovered 136,100 jobs through the end of 2018. In their April 2019 report, University of Michigan economists Gabriel Ehrlich and Donald Grimes forecasted that 31,570 new jobs will be added over the next three-year period from 2019 through 2021. **Figure 1** illustrates this upward trend.

The higher-wage and middle-wage industries make up almost 76.0% of the net new jobs anticipated in the County over the three-year forecast period.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

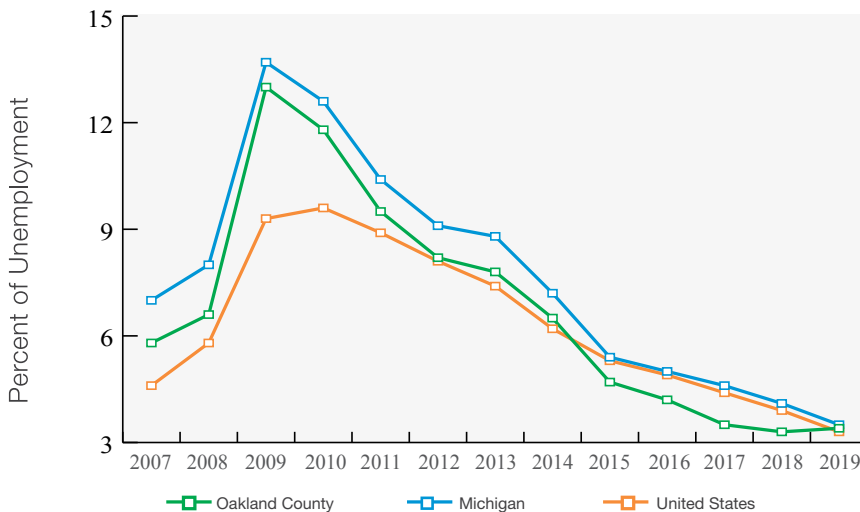


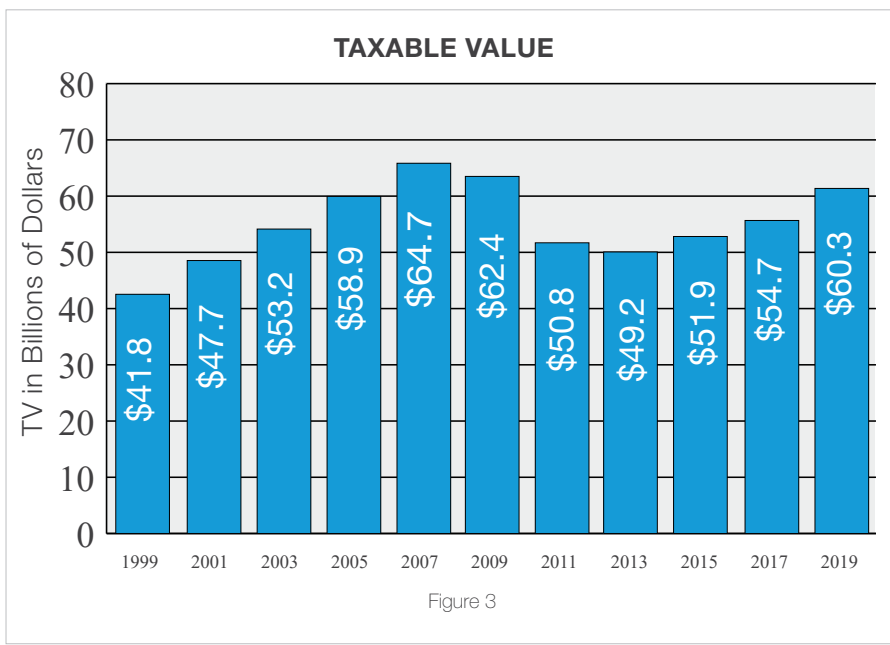
Figure 2

Oakland County's 2018 per capita personal income (PCPI) was \$72,741 is the highest among Michigan's 83 counties according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) most recent published data on November 14, 2019. The 2018 PCPI reflects an increase of 5.1% from 2017. Oakland County's per capita income also compares favorably to the national average \$54,446 and the state average of \$48,423.

As of September 2019, Oakland County's unemployment rate was 3.4%. This rate is lower than the state of Michigan at 3.5% and slightly higher than the national average at 3.3%. Unemployment rates for the past decade are illustrated in **Figure 2**.



# OAKLAND COUNTY'S tax base



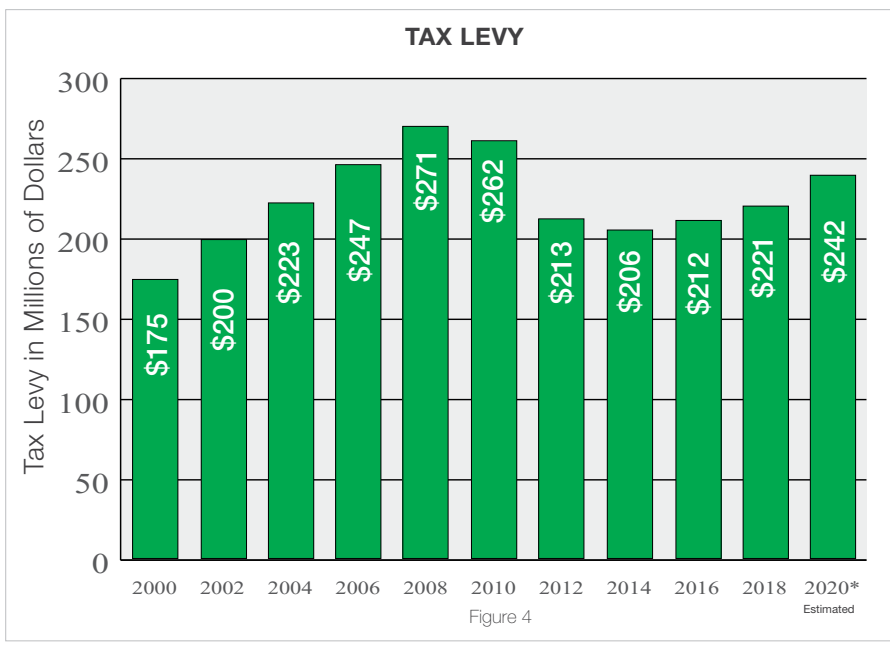
Oakland County's collective property values remain the highest of all 83 counties in Michigan, and represents 16.6% of the state's total value (Oakland County's population represents only approximately 12.6% of Michigan's total). The majority of Oakland County's taxable value is within the residential class of property, which is approximately 74.7% of the total property tax base.

The County continues to exercise a prudent and conservative approach to tax revenues by controlling the millage rate levied on the tax base. Millage rate is the rate at which property taxes are levied on property. A mill is 1/1000 of a dollar.

Property taxes are computed by multiplying the taxable value of the property by the number of mills levied. The county millage rate for the July 1, 2019 property tax levy remained at 4.04 mills (out of a maximum authorized levy of 4.0787 mills) for operations, one of the lowest county tax rates in the State of Michigan.

The 2019 market value of property in Oakland County was approximately \$153.4 billion, an increase of approximately \$9.7 billion from 2018 to 2019 (6.74%).

The Taxable Value (TV), which is the calculation on which property tax revenue is based, increased 5.24%. This is the seventh year of increase in property value following five consecutive years of decline and is further evidence that Oakland County's economy is strong. Changes in the county's taxable value and tax levies are depicted in **Figures 3 and 4**.





# OAKLAND COUNTY'S financial condition

## did you know?

Oakland County has been a true innovator and leader by structurally reforming Oakland's pension and other post-employment benefit plans to make them sustainable and less costly for taxpayers.

Oakland County's policies and practices are designed for long-term sustainability to ensure its continuing ability to provide quality services. The County's strong financial position is evidenced by its balanced long-term fiscal plan, low debt obligations, and responsible fund balance amounts in conformance with GFOA Recommended Best Practices.

The hallmark of the county's focus on long-term financial planning is preparation and adoption of a triennial budget and five-year forecast. Not only is the budget adopted for the next three fiscal years, the triennial budget is considered a "rolling" budget in that when it is amended, the amendment always reflects the impact for both the remainder of the current fiscal year and the impact on the next two fiscal years.

The county has continually maintained a AAA bond rating which is the highest bond rating achievable from Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service. This rating allows Oakland County to borrow at the lowest possible interest rate, saving the county millions of dollars in future borrowing costs. Local municipalities can also utilize the county's bond rating to borrow funds.

The issuance of debt is also limited. Debt is only issued after other sources of funding (operating budget, existing fund balance, etc.) have been explored. The county has the authority to issue up to \$7.7 billion in debt (10% of its State Equalized Value); however, the actual outstanding debt is \$611.9 million, 7.95% of the permissible amount.

Oakland County was the first county in the nation to fully fund its long-term retiree health care obligation. The most recent actuarial reports issued for the Oakland County Voluntary Employees' Benefit Association (VEBA) and Employee's Retirement System are for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018. The VEBA fund assets were reported at 143.2% of the fund actuarially determined liabilities. The Oakland County Employees Retirement System assets were reported as 102.3% funded. It is important to note that the annual cost of retiree pension and health care benefits, both for the current year's expense and the actuarially determined amount for the future years' costs are accounted for in each year's operating budget. None of the costs are hidden and none are pushed off onto future generations.

The General Fund is the county's principal operating fund. A favorable General Fund balance is an indicator of a healthy operating environment. Oakland County's sustainable long-term goal is to maintain a General Fund balance equating to approximately 20% of annual General Fund / General Purpose expenditures. In fact, the county adopted a resolution in July of 2015 to formally codify the fund balance policy for the General Fund.

Since 2010, Oakland County's general fund balance has increased by a total of \$110.7 million. The increase is primarily attributable to the county's effort to limit spending while maintaining services. A concentrated effort to build additional resources to cover an anticipated revenue reduction has also contributed to the increase in recent years.

**Figure 5a** and **Figure 5b** provides a historical view of the county's General Fund balance.





### GENERAL FUND REVENUES & EXPENDITURES (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

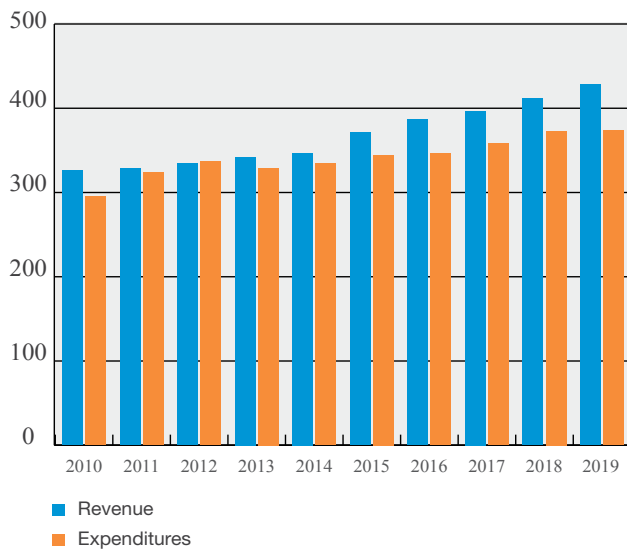
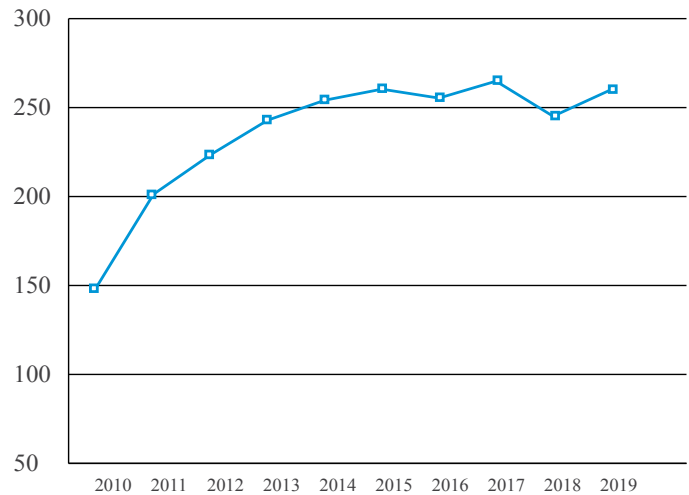


Figure 5a

Source: Oakland County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

### CHANGE IN GENERAL FUND EQUITY (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)



### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES (IN MILLIONS)

	2010	2011(a)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Revenue	\$326.9	\$328.9	\$335.4	\$342.9	\$347.5	\$372.1	\$387.1	\$397.6	\$412.1	\$429.2
Total Expenditures	<u>296.1</u>	<u>324.4</u>	<u>337.1</u>	<u>329.8</u>	<u>335.3</u>	<u>345.3</u>	<u>346.6</u>	<u>359.1</u>	<u>373.5</u>	<u>374.6</u>
Excess (Deficiency)	\$30.8	\$4.5	\$(1.7)	\$13.1	\$12.2	\$26.8	\$40.5	\$38.5	\$38.6	\$54.6
Other Financing Sources (Uses)	11.9	26.7	23.9	6.3	(1.0)	(20.6)	(45.5)	(29.0)	(58.3)	(39.9)
Beginning Equity	<u>106.3</u>	<u>170.0</u>	<u>201.2</u>	<u>223.4</u>	<u>242.8</u>	<u>254.0</u>	<u>260.2</u>	<u>255.2</u>	<u>264.7</u>	<u>245.0</u>
Ending Equity	\$149.0	\$201.2	\$223.4	\$242.8	\$254.0	\$260.2	\$255.2	\$264.7	\$245.0	\$259.7
As a % of Revenue	45.58%	61.17%	66.61%	70.81%	73.09%	69.93%	65.93%	66.57%	59.45%	60.51%

(a) 2011 Beginning Equity adjusted per GASB 54 restatement; included in Note 20 of the FY 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Figure 5b



# OAKLAND COUNTY'S financial condition (cont.)

Fiscal stability is also enhanced through the annual budget process which appropriates for full utilization of the county's 4,873 authorized positions. Should vacancies occur or positions be filled at a level lower than authorized, the resulting favorable variance has a positive impact on fund balance.

Many other types of funds are used in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles to record the programs and services provided by the county:

- Special Revenue funds are used to record the activities that receive monies for restricted purposes such as Friend of the Court and grant-funded activities.
- Debt Service funds account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest, usually bonds.
- Capital Project funds account for the purchase or construction of major capital facilities, such as buildings, drains, water and sewer projects.
- Enterprise funds account for functions that are financed primarily through user charges and operate similar to businesses, such as the airports, water and sewer operations and the parks.
- Internal Service funds account for the financing of goods or services provided by one county department or agency to other departments or agencies on a cost-reimbursement basis.

The overall revenues and expenses for county functions illustrated in **Figure 6** are derived from Governmental and Proprietary Fund Statements presented in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange revenues. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged for goods or services. The Revenue Trend graph provides a 5-year history of county revenue sources. The Expense Trend graphs show expenses by major activities within the county. For additional information regarding changes by activity, please refer to the Management Discussion and Analysis section in the Fiscal Year 2019 CAFR at [oakgov.com/CAFR](http://oakgov.com/CAFR).

Internal Service fund revenues and expenses have not been included in these totals. Also, the funds of the component units (Road Commission for Oakland County and Chapters 20 & 21 Drainage Districts) are not presented as these services are provided by other county entities. However, General Fund transfers to the Internal Service funds are included as expenses to more accurately reflect the use of county tax revenues.

**NOTE:** *It is important to note that subsequent to year-end, the United States and the State of Michigan declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the global Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The County's investment portfolio, particularly the investments of the pension and retiree healthcare benefit trust fund, has been impacted by the pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 will affect subsequent periods of the County. However, the impact of operating costs, operating revenues, and any recovery from emergency funding cannot be estimated at this time.*



## FIVE YEAR REVENUE & EXPENSE TRENDS (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

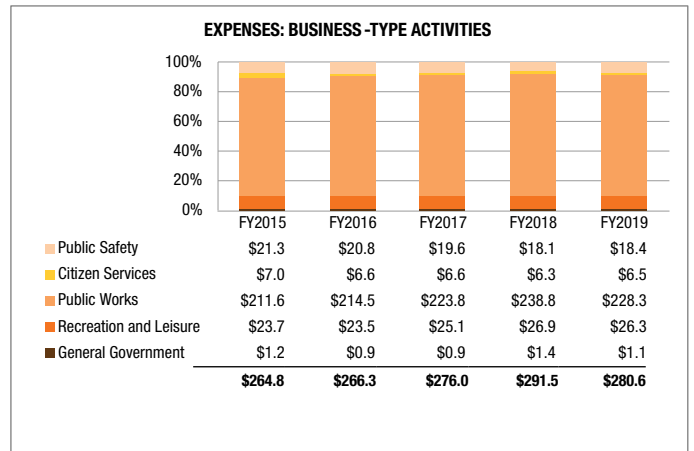
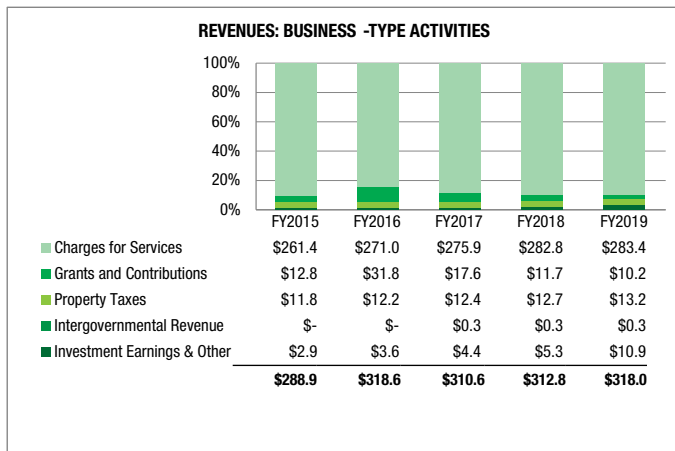
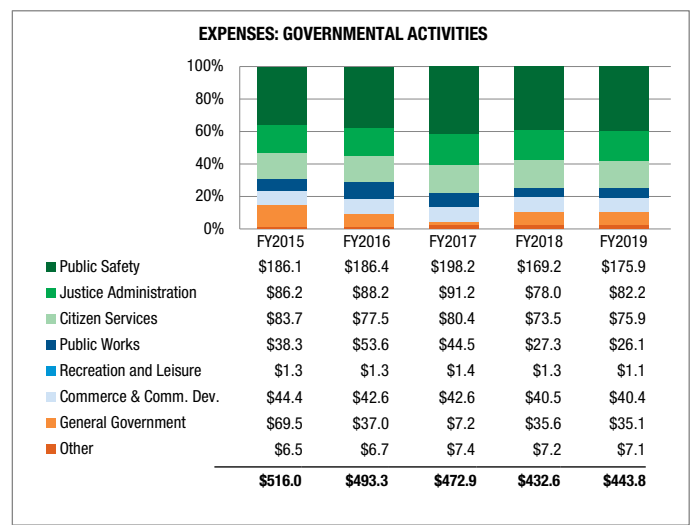
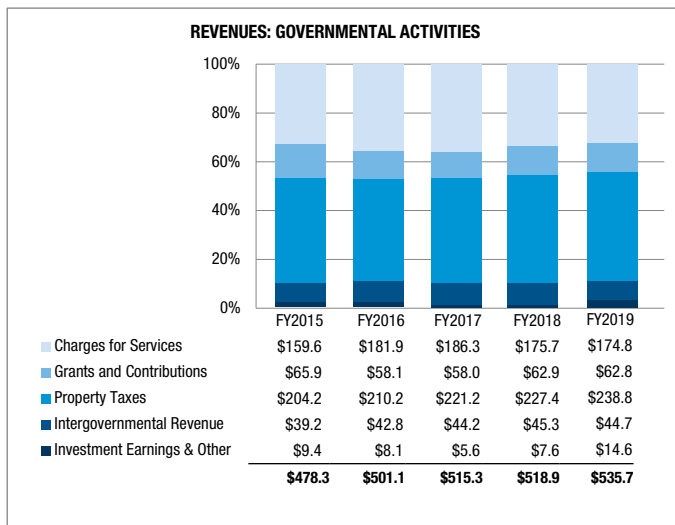
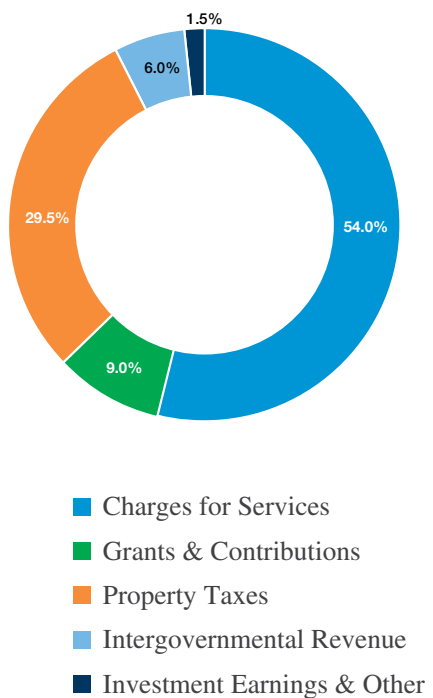


Figure 6



# revenues



The receipt of county revenues are defined as follows:

**Property Taxes:** The county's actual property tax for General Fund operations is based on a rate of 4.04 mills which is less than the maximum authorized millage rate of 4.0787 mills. Parks and Recreation is also supported by taxes of .2349 mills and is reported as an Enterprise fund.

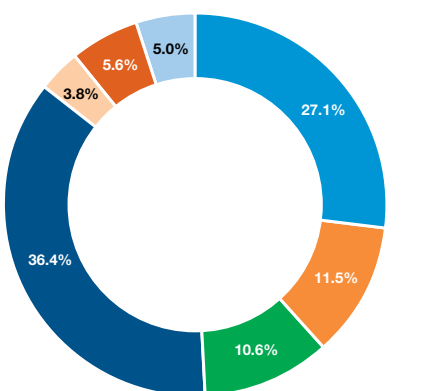
**Grants and Contributions:** Restricted funding provided by federal or state governments.

**Intergovernmental:** Revenue from state or local governments in the form of shared revenue or reimbursements.

**Charges for Services:** Revenue from fees received for purchased services.

**Investment Earnings and Other:** Interest on investments, revenue from rebates, refunds of prior year's expenditures, transfers in from other funds and miscellaneous sources.

# MAJOR PROGRAM expenditures

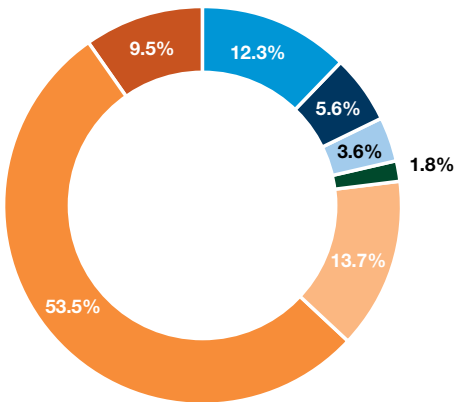


For presentation purposes, county expenditures were broken into seven broad program areas: General Government, Public Safety, Justice Administration, Recreation and Leisure, Direct Citizen Services, Commerce and Community Development, and Public Works.

- Public Safety
- Justice Administration
- Direct Citizen Services
- Public Works
- Recreation & Leisure
- Commerce & Community Development
- General Government



# general government



- Legislative
- Executive
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Support Services
- Elections
- Treasury

## did you know?

Oakland County Board of Commissioners meetings can be viewed online; either live or recorded at [oakgov.com/boc](http://oakgov.com/boc)



You can sign up for email notification of available county careers through Human Resources at [oakgov.com/hr](http://oakgov.com/hr)

General Government includes all areas of the county involved in the administration and financial aspects of county business. Included in this program are the County Executive, Board of Commissioners, Treasurer, Management and Budget, Human Resources and Central Services departments. The Elections Division is also included.

**EXECUTIVE:** The County Executive is responsible for coordinating county activities, maintaining fiscal policies and interacting with the Board of Commissioners and other countywide elected officials. Centralized internal auditing and purchasing functions are performed by the Compliance Office under the County Executive.

**LEGISLATIVE:** The Board of Commissioners is the governing body of Oakland County. The board is responsible for the adoption of the annual budget, establishing the county property tax millage rate, formulating and establishing county policies, making appointments to various boards and commissions, and adopting ordinances and rules.

**TREASURY:** The Treasurer serves as the banker of the county and acts as the custodian of all county funds and as the collector and distributor of all revenues.

**FINANCE:** The Department of Management and Budget oversees the finance functions of the county including Equalization and Fiscal Services. The Director is designated as the Fiscal Officer of the county and is responsible for ensuring that the county operates within a balanced budget and that all financial transactions and financial reporting are completed in accordance with the accounting and reporting standards set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** The Human Resources Department, as mandated by Public Act 139, directs the performance of all personnel and labor relations functions for the county.

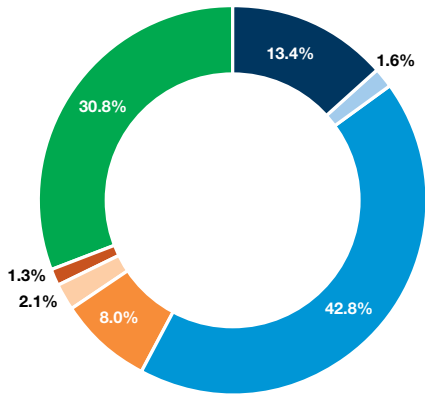
**SUPPORT SERVICES:** Central Services is responsible for the overall administration and operations of the Support Services Division which provides a wide variety of governmental and internal services to county departments including Vehicle Operations, Record Retention, Mailroom, and the Courthouse Cafeteria. This department also oversees the three county airports.

**ELECTIONS:** The Elections Division is responsible for overseeing all county and multi-jurisdictional elections, programming elections tabulators, printing ballots, training poll workers and maintaining permanent records of election results. The division also maintains all campaign finance records for local offices and updates the statewide Qualified Voter File (QVF) database. Additionally, the Elections Division records and maintains the official minutes of the Board of Commissioners.



Oakland County Sheriff's Deputies grant wish for child.  
Photo Credit: Click on Detroit

# public safety



- Incarceration
- Alternative Corrections Program
- Animal Control
- Homeland Security
- Community Law Enforcement
- Law Enforcement
- Crime Prevention

Public Safety consists of all aspects of law enforcement.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT / INCARCERATION / COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT

**SUPPORT:** The **Sheriff's Office** is comprised of the Administrative Services Division, which conducts business and human resource functions, and two main groups: the Corrections/Courts and Inmate and Support Services Group and the Law Enforcement Services Group. The Corrections/Courts and Inmate and Support Services Group is made up of Corrective Services, which oversees operations of the main jail and inmate support services and Corrective Services - Satellites, which oversees the operations of facilities outside the main jail, including court security. The Law Enforcement Services Group includes Emergency Response and Preparedness; Emergency Communications and Operations which provides dispatch services; Patrol Services, which administers law enforcement activities including contracted patrol; and Investigative/ Forensic Services, which provides countywide police service support including investigations for numerous areas such as narcotics, fire, homicide, crime scene and computer crime in addition to forensic lab services.

**Children's Village** is the county's residential facility for children and youth who are court-ordered into care or who have been placed in the facility by the Michigan Department of Human Services.

**Information Technology** programs that support local community law enforcement are also included under Public Safety.

**ALTERNATIVE CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS:** The **Community Corrections Division** provides a wide array of sentencing alternatives for all types of non-violent offenders. These programs offer rehabilitative value without compromising public safety. All programs are cost effective alternatives to incarceration, which allows for the jail space to be reserved for the most serious offenders.

The **Circuit Court Probation Division** provides the Oakland County Circuit Court with a Pre-Sentence Investigation Report consistent with Michigan Compiled Law 771.14 prior to sentencing on each defendant convicted of a felony and referred by the court. The Circuit Court Probation Division is a multi-funded agency, which is funded by both the state of Michigan and Oakland County.

**HOMELAND SECURITY:** The **Homeland Security Division** provides emergency management planning, response, recovery and mitigation services for natural, technological, national security and nuclear emergencies or disasters affecting Oakland County.

**ANIMAL CONTROL** is responsible for the enforcement of state laws pertaining to domestic animals and livestock.

**Crime Prevention:** The **Youth Assistance Program**, within **Circuit Court**, is designed to strengthen youth and families to prevent and reduce delinquency, abuse, and neglect through community and volunteer involvement.

## did you know?

The Sheriff's Office internationally accredited Forensic Science Lab is responsible for:

- crime scene processing
- biology/DNA
- drug chemistry
- firearms/toolmarks
- latent prints
- toxicology



# justice administration

Justice Administration includes the Circuit, 52nd District and Probate courts as well as the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. A portion of the County Clerk, the official recorder of county records and Clerk to the Circuit Court, is also included.

**JUDICIAL PROCESS:** The **6th Judicial Circuit Court** serves all the citizens of Oakland County. It hears civil, criminal and family cases, as well as appeals from district courts, administrative agencies, and some Probate Court matters. The job of the court is to dispense justice, interpret the law and settle disputes.

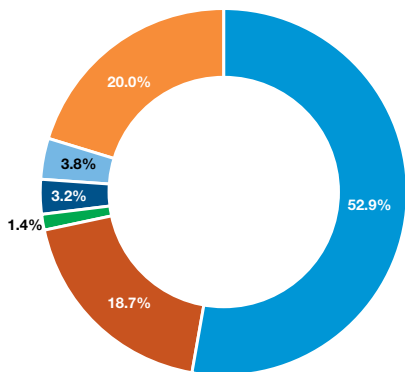
The **52nd District** courts have jurisdiction over all misdemeanor, ordinance and charter violations and preliminary examinations on all felony cases. The District Court has exclusive jurisdiction over General Civil actions when the amount in controversy does not exceed \$25,000, Landlord Tenant and Land Contract Forfeiture cases, as well as Small Claims cases with disputes not exceeding \$6,000. The District Court may also conduct marriages. There are four divisions of the court: Division I in Novi, Division II in Clarkston, Division III in Rochester Hills and Division IV in Troy.

**ESTATES AND MENTAL HEALTH: Probate Court** is responsible for the probating of wills, guardianships, conservatorships and the administration of estates of deceased persons by personal representatives.

**LITIGATION/INVESTIGATIONS:** The **Prosecuting Attorney** is the chief law enforcement officer of the county, primarily charged with the duty to see that state criminal laws are faithfully enforced. The Prosecuting Attorney represents the people of the state of Michigan in all state law criminal matters pending before all courts in Oakland County, advocates for new legislation and other reforms in the system, and assists in the training of police officers to ensure they are able to perform their functions in accordance with the law.

**CASE RECORDS:** The **Office of the County Clerk** is responsible for recording and maintaining all 6th Judicial Circuit Court paper and electronic documents in accordance with all statutory and Supreme Court guidelines.

**CIVIL ENFORCEMENT: Fiscal Services Reimbursement** is responsible for managing collections for the Circuit, Family, and Probate courts for all court ordered fees and determines the ability to pay for various court services. Prosecuting Attorney and Friend of the Court Child Support Enforcement programs are also included in this area.



- Judicial Process
- Litigation
- Investigations
- Estates & Mental Health
- Case Records
- Civil Enforcement

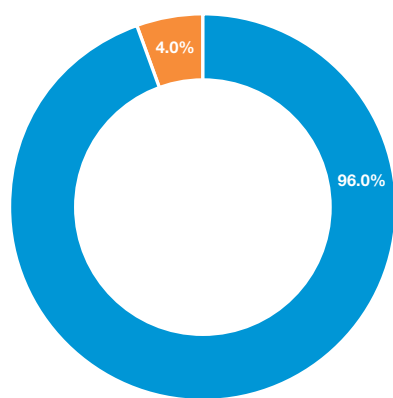
## did you know?

For \$25, residents can store their will for safekeeping with the Probate Court.

//////////  
Circuit Court legal records can be searched online through Court Explorer.



# recreation & leisure



- Parks & Recreation
- Library

## did you know?

Parks and Recreation has cabins and yurts available for rent at Addison Oaks and Groveland Oaks.

There are three downhill ski and snowboard sites in Oakland County: Pine Knob in Independence Township, Mt. Holly in Groveland Township and Alpine Valley in White Lake Township.

Recreation and Leisure includes services that promote recreational, leisure and cultural activities for county citizens which are provided by Parks and Recreation, the library and the Office of Arts, Culture & Film.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** With 6,700 acres of natural landscapes and outdoor recreation for Oakland County residents, the 13 Oakland County parks offer a wide variety of year-round recreation opportunities ranging from camping, hiking, swimming, boating, golfing and picnicking to cross-country skiing, ice skating and ice fishing. Explore Oakland County Parks and Recreation at [OaklandCountyParks.com](http://OaklandCountyParks.com).

**Parks and Recreation** is also responsible for the management and operation of the Oakland County Farmers Market. The market is open three days a week, provides grower-direct fresh produce, flowers and hand-made goods. Vendors showcase their products at indoor and outdoor stalls. Red Wood Grill provides on-site BBQ fare. Special events are held throughout the year, including wine tasting at Oakland Uncorked, food truck rallies and community garage sales. Nutrition and health programs are hosted by Michigan State University Extension and master gardeners, as well as the Oakland Conservation District and the Oakland County Health Division.

**LIBRARY:** The **Adams-Pratt Oakland County Law Library** provides an extensive, up-to-date legal research collection for use by the general public and legal professionals alike. It is the largest public county law library in the state of Michigan, serving the public, government and court employees, attorneys, students and other visitors. The library assists the public with court proceedings by providing court rules, procedural information, forms and free computer access for legal research.

**ARTS, CULTURE & FILM:** While Oakland County no longer administers the regional regranteeing program directly, the county still provides administrative staff to enhance, strengthen and promote the arts and cultural life in Oakland County through advocacy, promotion, funding and programming initiatives.

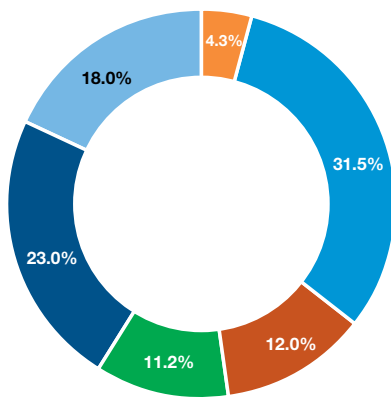
**MI Great Artist™** is an online art competition for visual artists, 18 years and older. Artists are able to submit up to five images and descriptions of their work for public voting. From the top 35 artists, a six-member jury of arts professionals will select five finalists. The MI Great Artist™ winner will be determined by a combination of jury score and public vote. For more information please visit [MIGreatArtist.com](http://MIGreatArtist.com).





# direct citizen services

Direct Citizen Services represents all areas which provide direct services to individual citizens.



- General Services
- Health Services
- Environmental Health Services
- Family Services
- Mental Health
- Child Welfare

**HEALTH SERVICES / ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:** The **Health Division** protects the public’s health through health promotion, disease prevention and protection of the environment. In addition to its traditional public health role, the Health Division is committed to protecting the public through continual review and improvement of its emergency response capabilities, having developed nationally recognized preparedness programs. The Health Division executes all of these responsibilities in an exemplary manner in an environment of limited resources and increasing requirements from state and federal authorities.

**GENERAL SERVICES: Michigan State University Extension** is part of the National Cooperative Extension Service system that provides unbiased research-based education to address critical issues. The mission of MSUE is to help people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

The **Veterans’ Services** Division provides technical, local-level advocacy and assistance to Oakland County veterans and dependents to obtain federal, state and local veterans’ benefits.

The **County Clerk Vital Records** Unit is responsible for recording and safeguarding birth, death, marriage, notary public and assumed names documents in addition to processing concealed weapons permits.

The **Medical Examiner’s office** investigates and determines cause and manner of death in any violent, sudden, unexpected, suspicious or otherwise unexplained death, inclusive of all jail deaths and deaths in police custody occurring within Oakland County.

The **Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center**, operating out of its new facility that opened in 2017, has been helping animals by providing shelter and care while at the same time attempting to reunite them with their owners or to find new, loving homes. This is also included in the General Services area.

**CHILD WELFARE: Children’s Village** shelter care for young people who are in need of protection for reasons of abuse or neglect. This category also encompasses Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) 4-H Youth programs.

**FAMILY SERVICES:** The **Prosecuting Attorney Victim Services Section** offers information and support to all crime victims throughout Oakland County. The information helps victims or families understand and exercise their rights, as well as gain an understanding of the criminal court process.

**Circuit Court Adoption Services** processes adoption petitions for direct placement, agency, adult, stepparent, and relative adoptions.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** represents the annual payment to the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, as required by the Mental Health Code.

## did you know?

The new Oakland County Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Center is located on our county government campus and invites residents to get 30 minutes of exercise by taking a dog for a walk along one of the new walking paths on the shelter grounds.



# community development

Commerce and Community Development reflects all efforts to promote and sustain a strong business and economic climate, a healthy environment and vibrant communities.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** programs prepare and provide land use information and zoning and master plan reviews for Oakland County communities to improve land use coordination and decision-making. Also, Main Street Oakland County maximizes the economic potential and preserves the heritage and sense of place of the county’s historic commercial (downtown) districts.

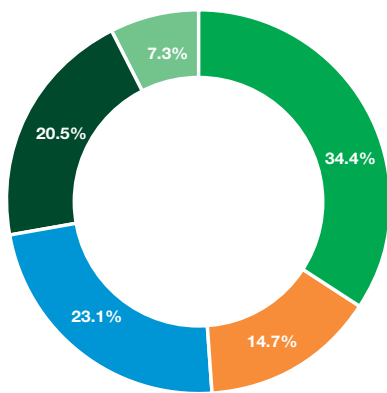
The **Community & Home Improvement Division** administers federal housing and community development grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These grants are designed to create viable communities by providing decent, safe and sanitary housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities for persons of low and moderate income, homeless persons and persons with housing issues.

The **Register of Deeds** records and safeguards all land related documents including subdivision plats and condominium plans. The office has a Super Index, allowing millions of documents filed with Oakland County to become easily searchable by any piece of information contained within them. There is also a Property Records Notification system that notifies citizens by e-mail when a document is recorded with their specified search term(s).

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:** The **Equalization Division** assists the Board of Commissioners in ascertaining whether the real and personal property in the townships and cities of Oakland County have been equally and uniformly assessed at true cash value.

Access Oakland Account Services provides secure access to business systems, account management, reporting, and payment options.

The **Water Resources Commissioner** is the delegated authority to maintain the established legal levels of 55 lakes within Oakland County. Under the provisions of the Land Division Act, the Water Resources Commissioner’s Office also reviews and approves subdivision plats to ensure that adequate storm drainage facilities have been included in the engineering plan.



- Economic Development
- Community Development
- Community Services
- Environmental Protection
- Workforce Development



## did you know?

Manufacturing Day in Oakland County is a celebration of modern manufacturing - an opportunity for students to get a firsthand look at what today's engineers, technicians and other staff do each day at advanced manufacturing facilities across the region. Companies across the county open their doors to students, teachers and counselors to highlight the technologies and careers in the new world of advanced manufacturing.

////////////////////////////////////  
MiCareerQuest Southeast, a regional initiative event, attended by high school students from school districts in Oakland, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw and Wayne counties introduces students to career opportunities to four growing career quadrants: advanced manufacturing, construction, health sciences, and information technology.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** programs support the retention and expansion of existing businesses and entrepreneurs through a comprehensive range of services and information. The programs diversify Oakland County's economic base by attracting new companies throughout the world via its Emerging Sectors initiative. Since its creation in 2004 through December 2019, the Emerging Sectors program has had 547 business successes and has attracted about \$5.4 billion in investment, creating approximately 53,936 jobs and retaining 39,381 jobs.

Due to its educated work force, Oakland County is well positioned to continue its transformation to the evolving knowledge-based economy. Approximately 59.2% of all County residents hold a degree from an institute of higher education. Oakland County has been investing for years in many of the industries that are prominent in the New Economy. Innovative programs such as Automation Alley, Emerging Sectors, Medical Main Street, and Tech248 continue to identify industries and businesses that are projected to have increasing employment opportunities, particularly those associated with professional and business services, health services, technology services, robotics, and advanced manufacturing.

The Product Development and Services program researches, collects and disseminates data and maps that describe Oakland County, its communities, businesses, and demographic/development trends. The One Stop Shop Business Center is the first point of contact for entrepreneurs and others interested in starting or growing a business, accessing financing, business counseling services or attending any of the dozens of classes offered by the center.

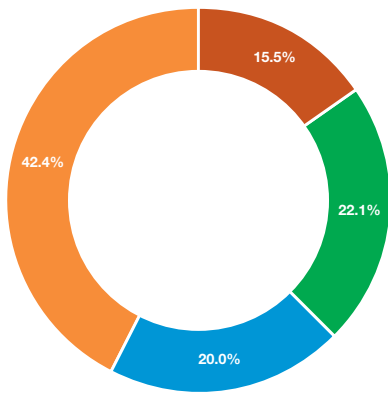
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:** Environmental Stewardship supports sustainable economic growth, development and redevelopment through the preparation and communication of information, plans, visions and options which advance proactive, coordinated, locally driven conservation and recreation initiatives.

The Waste Resource Management program develops and administers the county's solid waste planning efforts.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:** Under the joint direction of the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and the County Executive, the Workforce Development Division administers numerous state and federally funded programs that serve the county's job seekers and employers.



# public works



- Public Utilities
- Transportation
- County Facilities
- Drainage Systems

Public Works refers to all operating systems that form the infrastructure of basic county functions.

**COUNTY FACILITIES:** **Facilities Management** plans, designs, constructs, renovates, operates, maintains, repairs and provides security for the facilities and grounds owned and maintained by Oakland County.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The **Aviation Division** oversees three county-owned airports; Oakland County International Airport, Oakland/Troy Airport and Oakland/Southwest Airport.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES/DRAINAGE SYSTEMS:** The **Water Resources Commissioner** provides leadership in areas of regional cooperation in order to make responsible decisions about infrastructure, the environment and water quality. These responsibilities include the operation and maintenance of county-owned sewers and many individual municipal sewer systems and drinking water systems under contract. Other functions of the office include operations and maintenance of facilities such as sewage pump stations, retention treatment basins, storm water retention facilities and lake level augmentation sites. Duties also include drain and sewer construction inspection, sewage flow metering, engineering plan review and permitting, as well as a soil erosion control program to monitor construction activities to protect Oakland County lakes and streams from the effects of soil erosion and sedimentation.

**ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY:** The **Department of Information Technology (IT)** plays an integral role in county operations by developing, integrating and maintaining innovative technology programs. IT provides service to all units of County government, as well local municipalities and county-affiliated companies, organizations and individuals.

The County continues to be a leader in efforts to share government resources through intergovernmental cooperative programs. The County's Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS) program is a premiere example of regional collaboration with over 250 public safety agencies across Southeast Michigan.

Government to Government, or G2G, Marketplace was developed to offer solutions from government partners and approved vendors to government agencies through an online store experience. The goal of this initiative is to provide governments with an easy way to research, purchase and implement technology solutions and professional services. The G2G Marketplace simplifies the purchase and licensing process with pre-negotiated blanket purchase agreements so government agencies can utilize technology and services quickly. Currently, there are approximately 950 registered government users across the United States and in other countries around the world utilizing the G2G Marketplace.

Visit [G2GMarket.com](http://G2GMarket.com) for additional information.



# awards & accomplishments IN 2019

## did you know?

Oakland County received eight Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in 2019.

Oakland County received eight Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in 2019.

**DIGGING INTO THE PAST: The Bailey Homestead** – The Bailey’s were among the first to settle the Independence Township area, and the house built in 1883 is a significant part of Oakland County’s settlement history. Oakland County Parks and Recreation acquired the homestead in 2010 as part of Independence Oaks, one of its 13 parks. In 2017, an archaeology project to locate and document homestead artifacts and assist the local community in historic preservation. Parks created real archeological experiences for young people as a part of their day camp, Camp OakVentures. The process allowed campers to sift, sort and wash contents of the excavation grid from the Bailey Homestead.

**COMMUNITY TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE MEETINGS** – Established by the Oakland County Treasurer’s Office in 2017, Community Taxpayer Assistance Meetings are one-on-one, face-to-face meetings with taxpayers in their community to discuss delinquent property taxes and help keep families in their homes and businesses open. The goal is to assist taxpayers facing financial hardship in a non-threatening setting. The desired outcomes are preventing foreclosure with full payment of delinquent taxes or an attainable repayment schedule.

**OAKLAND COUNTY MANUFACTURING DAY** – On Oct. 5, 2018, over 1,000 high school students from 17 school districts and four Oakland Schools Technical campuses visited 43 manufacturing companies across Oakland County. Manufacturing Day has tripled in size and impacted thousands of students, encouraging them to pursue careers in advanced manufacturing through engaging tours at some of Oakland County’s premier advanced manufacturing companies. This annual event is a collaboration between Oakland County Michigan Works! /Oakland County Workforce Development, Oakland Community College, Oakland Schools Intermediate School District, and Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs.

**DRINKING WATER STATION PROGRAM** – Launched by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, the Oakland County Drinking Water Station Program replaced old drinking water fountains in county schools with state-of-the-art water bottle refilling stations. The program ensured children were offered water regularly throughout the day, as recommended by public health officials, and the water was safe.

**CAPACITY PLAN REPORTING** – The Department of Information Technology ensures county business systems remain healthy and available. It developed a monitoring tool to track capacity over time, helping the county understand the effects of environmental changes, look for trends and make informed business decisions. Without proper technology, you risk being caught up in tactical work and may overspend and not have the correct infrastructure to meet business needs. The tool simplifies and automates data access, analysis and reporting.



# awards & accomplishments

## IN 2019 (cont.)

**SOFTWARE DEFINED DATA CENTER** – Information Technology established a cloud first-approach to application infrastructure where optimal configuration for performance, reliability and cost can be selected. Amazon Web Services was chosen to build cloud environments. Oakland County recognizes the cloud as a third data center in the technology environment and constructed the Software Defined Data Center using software code to orchestrate the “building” of the cloud environment leveraging automation software.

**HEALTHY LAKES INITIATIVE** – The Oakland County Board of Commissioners, in partnership with the Oakland County Health Division and Huron River Watershed Council/Michigan Clean Water Corps launched this program to collect important scientific data to preserve and protect Oakland County lakes. The program provided volunteers with free training and equipment to monitor lake water quality during the summer through the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.

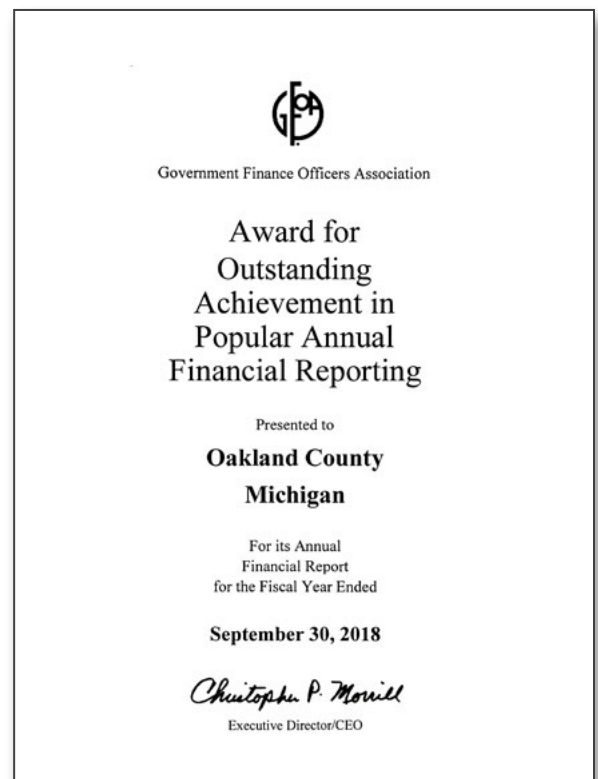
**THE WILDER SIDE NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAM** – It was created by Information Technology to offer nature through technology. It reduced costs by offering weekly digital content to citizens, wildlife and nature organizations, businesses, and local park and trail systems. The program responds to concerned citizens and reports important information to appropriate agencies. Citizen participation enhances services and programs.

## gfoa award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Oakland County for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. Oakland County has received a popular award for the last twenty-two consecutive years (fiscal years ending 1997-2018). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA.





# additional information

## OAKLAND COUNTY WEBSITE

A wealth of information on county services is available on the website at [OakGov.com](http://OakGov.com). Copies of this document as well as the county’s line item budget, program budget and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report are also available in PDF format on the website.

## Oakland County Contacts

### General

Main # (248) 858-1000  
Toll Free 1-888-350-0900

### Elected Officials

Board of Commissioners (248) 858-0100  
Clerk/Register of Deeds (248) 858-0581  
County Executive (248) 858-0480  
Prosecutor (248) 858-0656  
Sheriff (248) 858-5000  
Treasurer (248) 858-0611  
Water Resources Commissioner (248) 858-0958

### Courts

Circuit Court (248) 858-0344  
Probate Court (248) 858-0260

### District Courts

52-1 Novi (248) 305-6080  
52-2 Clarkston (248) 625-4880  
52-3 Rochester (248) 853-5553  
52-4 Troy (248) 528-0400

## Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Complete financial statements of Oakland County, with additional demographic and economic information, are provided in the county’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The document is available in PDF format on the county website. A printed version of this report can be viewed at the following location:

### Adams-Pratt Oakland County Law Library

1200 North Telegraph | Building 14 East – 2nd Floor | Pontiac, MI 48341-0453 | (248) 858-0012

## Acknowledgements

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[OakGov.com/MGTBUD](http://OakGov.com/MGTBUD)

