

Users' Guide to County Financial Statements

Basic Financial Statements

Minnesota County's basic financial statements consist of three parts: government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements, and notes to the financial statements. The management's discussion and analysis and certain budgetary comparison schedules are required to accompany the basic financial statements, and therefore, are included as required supplementary information.

Government-wide financial statements display information about the county's financial reporting entity as a whole, except for its fiduciary activities. These statements should present separate information for the governmental and business-type activities of the county (primary government).

Fund financial statements display separate financial information for the county's governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary funds. Information for governmental and enterprise proprietary funds is presented separately for major funds and the aggregate total for non major funds. Internal services and fiduciary fund information is presented in aggregate by fund type.

Notes to the financial statements provide additional information and disclosure for information in the financial statements.

Governmental activities are generally activities of the county financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange revenues. These activities are usually reported in governmental funds and internal service funds.

Business-type Activities are county activities financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. These activities are usually reported in enterprise funds.

Financial reporting entity consists of the primary government (county), organizations for which the county is financially accountable, and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the county are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The nucleus of a county's financial reporting entity is the primary government, the county.

Primary Government is a term used in connection with defining the financial reporting entity. The primary government is the focus of the financial reporting entity. For the county, the primary government represents the financial activities, funds, or accounts directly under the control of the county board.

County Governmental Fund Types

The **General Fund** is the general operating fund of the county. It is used to account for all financial resources except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted for specified purposes.

Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of principal, interest, and related costs of general long-term debt.

Capital Projects Funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities.

County Proprietary Funds

Enterprise Funds are used to report an activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services.

Internal Service Funds are used to report any activity that provides goods or services to other funds, departments, or agencies of the primary government or to other governments, on a cost reimbursement basis.

County Fiduciary Funds

Agency Funds are used to account for assets held by the county as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, and/or other funds; for example, taxes collected and held by a county for a school district.

Character Classification of County Expenditures

The county's governmental expenditures are classified by character or the periods expenditures are presumed to benefit. The county has the following character classifications:

Current operating expenditures are presumed to benefit the current fiscal period.

Debt service are presumed to benefit prior fiscal periods as well as current and future periods and includes amount expended for the payment of principal, interest and other costs associated with debt.

Capital outlays are presumed to benefit current and future fiscal periods and include amounts expended for the construction or acquisition of county capital assets.

Intergovernmental represent resources transferred by to the county to other governments.

Classification of County Functions

Functions are a group of related activities aimed at accomplishing a major service or regulatory program for which the county is responsible. The county has the following function classifications:

The **General Government** function includes expenditures for general county activities such as the county commissioners, county administration, county attorney's office, county auditor's office, county treasurer's office, county assessor's office, the planning and zoning office, and other county general service offices.

Public Safety relates to the objective of protection of persons and property and includes expenditures for corrections activities, operations of the sheriff's office, the county jail, civil defense, and emergency services.

Highways and Streets includes expenditures relating to the construction and maintenance of county highways and streets.

Sanitation involves expenditures for the removal and disposal of waste and includes county solid waste collection and disposal, recycling, and sanitary sewer programs.

Human Services represents activities designed to provide public assistance and institutional care for individuals unable to provide essential needs for themselves. These programs include child support collection, child welfare, chemical dependency, medical assistance, and others.

Health involves all activities involved in the conservation and improvement of public health. This function includes expenditures for the county public health department, home health aid services, other nursing services, maternal and child health, supplemental nutrition programs and programs to protect public and private water systems.

Culture and Recreation involves cultural and recreational activities maintained for the benefit of county residents and visitors. These activities include county libraries, parks and other recreation programs.

Conservation involves activities designed to conserve and develop such natural resources as water, soil, and forests and includes such programs as soil and water conservation, county extension, water planning, and other.

Economic Development activities are directed toward economically developing the area encompassed by the county and providing assistance to and opportunity for economically disadvantaged persons or businesses.