

**TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL COMMITTEES ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT
(For Townships Only)**

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: Lemont Township

II. Information about our Township

- A. We are located in Cook County. There are 29 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 22,645, as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 4 full-time and 3 part-time employees at the Township (not including elected officials).
- D. Our annual budget for 2023 is: \$1,017,953 for Lemont Township General Funds.
- E. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is
\$ 1,042,737,600.

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor Michael Shackel
Township Trustee Debra Blatzer
Township Trustee Terry Lemming
Township Trustee David Molitor
Township Trustee Jeanette Virgilio
Township Administrator Mario Mollo
Township Resident Angela Andrus
Township Resident Christine Zielke

B. Dates that our Committee Met (50 ILCS 70/20)

First (Organizational) Meeting	May 9, 2023
Second Meeting:	September 10, 2024
Third Meeting:	October 8, 2024

IV. Programs Offered by our Township.

- A. Our Township offers the following services and programs:
 - General Assistance

- Emergency Assistance
- Family Assistance
- Gift Cards
- LIHEAP
- Assessor’s Office
- Community Center
- Community Dog Park
- Community open spaces
- Pace Transportation

Website: www.LemontTownship.org

V. Social Service Agreements

A. We partner with the following not-for-profits to offer social services:

<u>Entity:</u>	<u>Services Provided:</u>
1. Bethany Lutheran Church	Food Pantry
2. United Methodist Church	Food Pantry
3. Hope & Friendship	Crisis and Family Support
4. Rotary Club	Community leadership and fundraising
5. CEDA	Gas and electricity assistance
6. Salvation Army	Financial assistance
7. Nicor	Gas assistance
8. Lion’s Club	Financial and eye-glass assistance

B. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in the following ways:

- Multiple partners for residents to receive assistance
- Builds a stronger community
- Supports mental and emotional needs

VI. Awards and Recognitions

- National Blue Ribbon School Awards
 - St. Cyril and Methodius
 - Lemont High School
- Lemont Park District receives National Workplace Award by Illinois Park and Recreation Association 2023
- Best of Lemont Annual Awards Ceremony (for government entities)
- Lemont’s Chief of Police honored with 2020 Chief of the Year by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

Intergovernmental or Other Agreements

A. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments:

<u>Entity:</u>	<u>Services Offered:</u>
1. School District 113A	Emergency, Family, and General Assistance
2. School District 210	Emergency, Family, and General Assistance
3. Village of Lemont	Open Land, Emergency Management Association, Tornado Siren, Everbridge Communications
4. Lemont Library	Family Assistance
5. Senior Association	Event Planning
6. Lemont Park District	Community programming, athletics, camp etc..
7. Lemont Police Department	Safety and Training
8. Lemont Fire Department	Safety and Training
9. Lemont Mayor's Office	Communication, Planning and Support

VII. Review of Laws, Township Policies, Township Rules and Procedures, Township Training Materials, and other Documents

We have reviewed the following, non-exhaustive list of laws, policies, training materials, and other documents applicable to the Township to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing should be amended.

- X State laws applicable to Townships, including, but not limited to the Township Code (60 ILCS)
- X Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120)
- X_____ Policy on public comment
- X_____ Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a))
- X_____ All of Elected Officials have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05(b))
- X_____ Schedule of All Township Regular Meetings for Calendar or Fiscal Year (5 ILCS 120/2.03)
- X_____ Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140)
- X_____ Designation of FOIA officer (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- X_____ FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5(b))

- X_____ Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- X_____ Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS 140/4(b))
- X_____ List of Types or Categories of FOIA Records under Township’s Control (5 ILCS 140/5)
- X_____ Periodic Meetings to Review Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d))
- X_____ IMRF Total Compensation Postings (5 ILCS 120/7.3)
- X_____ Designation of Whistleblower Auditing Official (50 ILCS 105/4.1)
- X_____ All of our Elected Officials have filed statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5)
- X_____ Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(c))
- X_____ Our Intergovernmental Agreements
- X_____ Our Social Service Agreements or Contracts
- X_____ Our budget and financial documents
- X_____ State Ethics Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-1)
- X_____ Reports on government efficiency, including “Local Government Efficiency and Size in Illinois: Counting Tax Revenues, Not Governments” by Wendell Cox (2016); “Local Democracy and Townships in the Chicagoland Area,” by Wendell Cox, (January 2012).
- _____ Others (List Below or Attach):

VIII. What Have We Done Well?

- a. Building partnerships to help strengthen community relationships
- b. Efforts to increase communication to the community (new system, mailers, etc.)
- c. Maintaining policies, training materials, and documentation of compliance

IX. What Inefficiencies Did We Identify/What Are our Next Steps?

- a. Unclear if closed meeting minutes reviewed recently-suggest reviewing quarterly
- b. Unclear if whistleblower auditing official was determined-suggest Township Administrator
- c. Written documentation of existing MOU agreements with community partners

X. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

- a. Communication – increased and improved communication plan to the community using a variety of avenues

XI. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies

In preparing this report, we reviewed several studies on local government efficiency. These studies show that:

- The average local government in Illinois serves 1800 residents compared to the national median of 2850 individuals
- Most townships in Illinois have no bonded indebtedness. Together with road districts they are an integral element of local democracy. Township expenditures have grown at a lower rate than those of any other level of government since 1992.
- Townships have lower labor costs and employ mostly part time employees.

XII. Our committee's recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:

- Township is partnering with Everbridge, an emergency notification system to increase and improve communication with residents.
- Township is in the process of updating the website to be more user friendly.
- Continue to market events and services to residents via social media.

Submitted by: Michael Shackel
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Lemont Township

Date: October 8, 2024