

FORD COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 26-18

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FORD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DONATION POLICY

WHEREAS, the Ford County Board recognizes the importance of supporting the Ford County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in its mission to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Ford County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to **55 ILCS 5/5-1051**, the Ford County Board has the authority to accept charitable donations of money, property, services, or supplies for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the statute provides that such donations must be distributed for public use through local charitable organizations or local direct service government agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Ford County EMA does not have independent statutory authority to accept or expend donations, and therefore such donations must be received and managed by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the Ford County Board finds it necessary and appropriate to adopt a formal policy to govern the acceptance, management, and expenditure of donations earmarked for EMA, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance with Illinois law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ford County Board as follows:

1. **Adoption of Policy:** The Ford County Board hereby adopts the **Ford County Emergency Management Agency Donation Policy**, attached hereto and incorporated by reference, as the official policy of Ford County governing the acceptance, management, and expenditure of donations earmarked for EMA.
2. **Implementation:** The Ford County Treasurer and EMA Coordinator are directed to implement and administer the Donation Policy in accordance with its terms, subject to oversight by the Finance Committee and the County Board.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** All donations and expenditures shall be recorded, reported, and audited as provided in the Donation Policy, with annual public reporting to ensure compliance and public trust.
4. **Effective Date:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Passed and approved by the Ford County Board this 12th day of January, 2026.

APPROVED:  Chase McCall, Chairman Ford County Board

ATTEST:  Amy Frederick Ford County Clerk



**FORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DONATION POLICY**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines for the acceptance, management, and expenditure of donations made to Ford County specifically for the benefit of the Ford County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). This policy ensures compliance with Illinois law, including **55 ILCS 5/5-1051**, promotes transparency, and safeguards public trust.

II. Authority

Pursuant to **55 ILCS 5/5-1051**, the Ford County Board is authorized to accept donations of money, property, services, or supplies. The statute requires that such donations **be distributed for public use through local charitable organizations or local direct service government agencies**. The EMA itself does not have independent statutory authority to accept or expend donations, and all donations must be routed through the County Board.

III. Scope

This policy applies exclusively to monetary and in-kind donations earmarked for the Ford County Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

IV. Acceptance of Donations

1. **Board Approval**

- All EMA donations must be formally accepted by resolution of the Ford County Board.
- Donations with restrictions or conditions shall not be accepted without express Board approval.

2. **Permissible Donations**

- Monetary contributions (cash, checks, electronic transfers).
- Tangible property (emergency equipment, disaster supplies, vehicles).
- In-kind services or volunteer contributions in support of EMA operations.

3. **Prohibited Donations**

- Donations with conditions that conflict with Illinois law, County policy, or public policy.
- Donations intended for non-emergency or non-aid purposes.

- Donations from sources that may create an appearance of conflict of interest (e.g., vendors bidding on County contracts).
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V. Management of Donations

1. Segregated Fund

- Monetary donations shall be deposited into a dedicated EMA Donations Fund within the County treasury, separate from general revenues.

2. Recordkeeping

- All EMA donations shall be receipted, documented, and tracked by the County Treasurer's Office.
- In-kind donations shall be recorded with an estimated fair market value.

3. Transparency

- EMA donation receipts and expenditures shall be reported to the Board monthly and included in the County's annual audit.
 - Donor acknowledgments shall be issued for all accepted contributions.
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VI. Use of Donations

1. Statutory Restriction

- EMA donations must be distributed **for public use through local charitable organizations or local direct service government agencies**, consistent with 55 ILCS 5/5-1051.
- Donations may only be used for emergency-related or aid-related purposes (e.g., disaster relief, emergency equipment, direct services to residents in emergencies).

2. Appropriation Requirement

- Expenditures of EMA-dedicated funds must be authorized through appropriation by the County Board.

3. Restricted Donations

- Donor-imposed restrictions will be honored if lawful and feasible.
 - If a restriction cannot be honored, the donation shall be declined or renegotiated.
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VII. Oversight and Internal Controls

- EMA donation disbursements shall require dual authorization (Treasurer and EMA Coordinator).
 - Accounts shall be reconciled monthly and reviewed by the Finance Committee.
 - The Board retains ultimate oversight authority over all EMA donations.
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VIII. Public Reporting

- An annual EMA Donations Report shall be published summarizing contributions received, expenditures made, and remaining balances.
 - The report shall be made available to the public to promote transparency and accountability.
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IX. Effective Date

This policy shall take effect upon adoption by the Ford County Board and shall remain in effect until amended or repealed.

Adopted by the Ford County Board on January 12, 2026.

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