

SPECIAL PROGRAMS FUND

Many of the current activities supported by the Special Programs Fund, formerly called the Revenue Sharing Fund, were traditionally funded by Federal General Revenue Sharing (GRS) which began under the Nixon Administration in 1972. Following the demise of GRS in 1986, the remaining cash balances in the Revenue Sharing Fund were sufficient to sustain the fund until the Village's 88/89 fiscal year.

In FY90/91, the Fund was renamed the Special Programs Fund due to the run-out of Federal revenue sharing dollars. In FY91/92, the separate "Cable TV Fund" was merged into the Special Programs Fund, bringing with it cable franchise fee revenues to help support not only local public access cable television, but greater public information services of the Village. These revenues were also sufficient to continue the support of the various social programs (e.g. community assistance program, family counseling service, senior services) which were previously supported by Federal revenue sharing dollars.

The FY96/97 budget consolidated the Village's separate Hotel/Motel Tax Fund into the Special Programs Fund. The designation of a separate fund to account for the Village's 5% hotel/motel tax was no longer necessary after the Village attained "home rule" status in 1994.

With Federal Revenue Sharing now long a thing of the past, the Special Programs Fund continued to provide funding for local social programs and community services that extend beyond the delivery of the Village's core municipal services, which continues to be the primary focus of our General Fund.

In 2010, the Village Board asked the Finance Commission to examine the Special Programs Fund. Following their review, the Finance Commission made the recommendation that the Village merge the Special Programs Fund into the General Fund and that the process of funding community groups be reconfigured for efficiency and transparency.

As a result of that recommendation and Village Board concurrence, the Special Program Fund has been closed as part of the FY11/12 budget and the revenues and expenditures formerly allocated within this fund have been moved to the General Fund. The Village Board will now approve a total amount available for community group grants as part of the budget process with the actual applications and awards occurring after the budget process.