

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation**

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#### **Intergovernmental Cooperation**

The intergovernmental cooperation chapter identifies opportunities for establishing or maintaining cooperation between local units of government. Cooperation improves lines of communication between different units of government; aids in the recognition and possible resolution of conflicts between jurisdictions; and allows for the identification of mutual service needs and improvements. The intent of this chapter is to identify, inventory and analyze existing and potential cooperative relationships.

#### **Section 7.1 Inventory of Intergovernmental Agreements**

Inventory and examination of existing relations allows for the understanding of how units of local government currently work together and how these relationships can be enhanced. As Bureau County develops and redevelops in the future it is important for the county to continue to work with surrounding units of local government. Bureau County has several standing agreements with other units of local government.

- A. The Bureau County Circuit Clerk's Office maintains an intergovernmental agreement with the Putnam County Circuit Clerk for a License Agreement with the Bureau County Farm Bureau for use of the Farm Bureau's facilities for the Driver Improvement Program. The Putnam County Circuit Clerk pays a portion of the rental fee, and the Bureau County Circuit Clerk pays the remaining balance of the rental fee.
- B. The Bureau County Circuit Clerk maintains an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services (HFS). HFS provides partial reimbursement for costs incurred by the Bureau County Circuit Clerk in collecting child support payments.

#### **Section 7.2 Issues/Conclusions Regarding Intergovernmental Relations**

- The existing intergovernmental agreements that Bureau County maintains are and have been mutually beneficial relationships.
- The existing intergovernmental agreements and relationships maintained by Bureau County should be continued.

#### **Section 7.3 Additional Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cooperation and Beneficial Agreements**

- County-wide economic development effort.
- Sharing of resources county-wide between all units of local government.

#### **Section 7.4 Goals/Objectives/Policies**

##### A. Goals

1. Encourage cooperation between Bureau County and other units of government, where appropriate, to ensure availability of services and facilities.
2. All intergovernmental agreements shall be entered into with the best interests of the residents of the Bureau County getting foremost consideration.

## B. Objectives

1. Share services across county or municipal borders whenever deemed appropriate by the County.
2. Periodically review intergovernmental agreements to re-affirm that they are still in the best interests of the residents of Bureau County.

## C. Policies

1. Establish and maintain communication with municipalities, townships and other units of local government for discussion on land use and other related issues.
2. Maintain existing intergovernmental relations and cooperation so long as they are in the best interests of the residents of Bureau County.
3. Explore additional opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation and beneficial agreements.
4. Coordinate economic development incentives across jurisdictional boundaries.