

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: October 27, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Anne Mitchell, Assistant to the Village Manager

Topic: Budget Amendment – Generator Grant for Preparedness Program (G2P2 Program)

PURPOSE

Staff is requesting that the Village Board approve a Generator Grant for Preparedness Program and approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$50,000 to fund the program. The Generator Grant Program is being created to encourage residents to prepare for future emergencies following the impact of the weather events in July and August 2026.

PROCESS

Tornadoes

As of September 1, there have been 210 tornadoes in Illinois in 2026. Illinois is now being considered a part of “tornado alley” and is the “new normal” for the region, where tumultuous weather events happen every season. The Village of Homewood experienced two major weather events on July 27 and August 11, 2026, which left thousands of residents without power for days after the event. Energy availability is a major concern for the residents of Homewood, and the Village realizes the opportunity to encourage residents to participate in emergency preparedness through purchasing a home generator.

Access to Electrical Power/Emergency Readiness

During this summer’s storms, unexpected blackouts occurred that left residents without access to critical home systems, such as refrigerators, lights, and sump pumps. If these residents had home generators, they would have had access to these critical home systems while they were waiting for power to be restored to their homes. Emergency preparedness is the proactive process of preparing for disasters before they occur, and Homewood residents can engage in emergency preparedness by purchasing a generator for their homes. The Village seeks to encourage its residents in their emergency preparedness activities by launching the Generator Grant for Preparedness Program (G2P2 Program).

Generator Grant for Preparedness Program (G2P2 Program)

Staff is proposing that the Village create a temporary Generator Grant for Preparedness Program (G2P2 Program), where the Village would provide a rebate to residents for a portion of the cost to purchase a generator from a local retailer.

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Generator Type	Proposed Village Rebate
Temporary/Mobile Generator	\$250
Permanent Generator	\$400

This program would only be available to the residents of Homewood who provide proof of purchase from a Homewood retailer during the program's designated time period.

Similar programs have been implemented by other municipalities. For example, the City of Wood Dale currently offers an annual program that has assisted 217 residents with the purchase of generators, resulting in \$26,000 in reimbursements. The City of Des Plaines offered a program in late 2011 and early 2012, providing more than \$150,000 in reimbursements to participating residents.

How will it work?

The Village's program would run until the end of the current fiscal year (April 30, 2027) or until the funds are depleted. Grants would be awarded based on the order in which applications are received. The Village would require residents to provide proof of residency and an original receipt of the generator purchase from a local retailer within the community, specifically the local Ace Hardware, Home Depot, or Menards. The program would be managed by the Village Manager's Office.

Funding Source

In September 2025, the Board passed an ordinance approving the implementation of a 1% non-home rules sales tax effective January 1, 2026. The tax was intended to be used as a source for the Village's capital improvement program. Considering the impact the recent storms have had on the residents, staff recommends allocating \$50,000 of the 2026 non-home rule sales tax revenue towards the Home Generator Rebate program.

OUTCOME

Approval of the budget amendment and support of the Generator Grant for Preparedness Program will encourage residents to prepare for future emergencies by purchasing a generator for their homes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** General Fund
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$0
- **Budgeted Amendment Requested:** \$50,000
- **Cost:** \$50,000

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LEGAL REVIEW

Not Required

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Approve the Generator Grant for Preparedness Program; and, approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$50,000 to fund the program.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None