



**Program  
Section**

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## Priorities of Government Section - Introduction

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### Budget As A Priorities of Government Document

A budget is not solely a financial document. It is also a Priorities of Government document, a description of the services and functions of a government entity.

The Financial Section of this document presents the budget on the basis of individual funds on total revenue and expenditures. The Priorities of Government Section present the budget on the basis of priorities, functions, department, and programs. This section focuses on priorities of services and programs.

The Priorities of Government Section is divided into the following sub-sections:

**Budget by Priorities of Government.** This subsection presents the County's budget broken down into eight priorities of government, Internal Support & Capital Debt Funds, along with summary descriptions of these priorities.

**Guide to Detail.** This sub-section explains how to read and interpret the detailed priorities, department and program descriptions in the following sub-sections.

**Priorities Sub-Section.** Each of the eight priorities has its own sub-section, which includes an overview of the priority, policies and issues associated with it, and detailed budget information on each department and program within the priority.

### Priorities, Departments and Programs

This section of the budget is divided into priorities, departments and programs. A priority is a grouping of departments which provide a related set of services. The budget is divided into eight priorities: Law, Justice, Public Safety, Public Services, Government Services, Economic Development, Quality of Life, Health and Human Services, Internal Services, Capital and Debt Funds.

A department is a distinct organizational or budgetary unit within the County, typically reporting to a single elected official or department head. In certain cases, departments are actually divisions of a larger "super-departments" which encompass an entire function. For example, the Planning Division, which is treated here as a "department," is part of the entire Public Services Priority.

Each department is divided into programs, which represent specific services delivered by the department. Some departments have only one program while others have more than ten.

## Budget by Priorities

The County's budget is divided into ten priorities, as shown on the charts below.

Eight of these priorities correspond to the Priorities of Government policy: Government Services, Law, Justice, Public Safety, Public Services, Economic Development, Quality of Life and Health and Human Services. In addition to these we have Internal Services for those funds that provide the basic necessary services to support the County operations. The Capital and Debt includes general obligation debt payments and purchases and project development.

