

Shared Cost Sidewalk Program

Frequently Asked Questions

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program is an extremely popular voluntary program in which property owners and the City of Chicago share the cost of replacing sidewalks.

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program cost per square foot charged to property owners is well below what a private contractor would charge. Senior citizens and persons with disabilities may qualify to receive a 50 percent discount. The approximate cost to a property owner of an average mid-block property will range from \$600 to \$1,500. Those prices are significantly below what a private contractor would charge. The City can offer that attractive price because of the volume of work performed by the City.

How does the process work?

1. Applications for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program will only be accepted through the City's 311 system by calling 311, through the City's service request website <https://311.chicago.gov>, or through the free CHI311 mobile apps on iOS Apple and Android.. Note the following:
 - Make sure to specify that you want to participate in the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program.
 - Specify if you (the owner) are a senior or disabled citizen. Seniors and/or disabled citizens may qualify for a 50 percent discount on the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program cost.
 - If you currently do not have a courtesy walk (which runs perpendicular from the main sidewalk to the curb) or landing step (the small strip of concrete sometimes found adjacent to the curb) and would like one installed, this should be mentioned at the time of request. Installation is subject to engineering recommendation.
 - If you are interested in removal and replacement of the driveway apron (the portion of driveway between the sidewalk and curb), this should be mentioned at the time of request.
 - You must give the property owner's complete name, a contact phone number, email address if available, and the property's complete address. **Please note that Shared Cost Sidewalk Program applications that are missing any of this requested information may not be processed.**
2. Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The number of participants is based on availability of funds. Once capacity is reached, requests for participation in the program will no longer be accepted and property owners will have to apply to the program the following year. Applicants will be notified via U.S. mail or email indicating whether they have been included into the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program. Also check our website (<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdot.html>) for program updates.
3. CDOT will survey the area to determine the scope and cost of reconstruction. Sidewalk replacement is based on engineering considerations. CDOT may determine that some locations meet City standards and do not require reconstruction.
4. If CDOT determines that the property is eligible for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program, CDOT will send a cost estimate for the work to the property owner in the spring. If interested, payment in full must be made to the City's Department of Finance **within the timeframe indicated on the cost estimate.**

Payment can also be made in person at one of the Department of Finance payment locations:

- 121 N LaSalle St Room 107 (Mon.-Fri.: 8am – 5pm)
 - 400 W Superior St. 1st Floor (Mon.-Fri.: 8:30am – 4:30pm)
 - 4445 N Pulaski Rd (Mon./Tue./Thu.: 9am - 5pm and Wed/Fri.: 11am – 7pm)
 - 4770 S Kedzie Ave (Mon./Tue./Thu.: 9am - 5pm and Wed/Fri.: 11am – 7pm)
 - 2006 E 95th St (Mon./Wed./Fri.: 9am - 5pm and Tue./Thu.: 11am – 7pm)
5. If you are eligible for a senior citizen or persons with disability rate that was not applied to your estimate, contact CDOT at 312-744-1746. A revised cost estimate will be issued to the property owner reflecting the discount once the required documentation has been received and verified. Payment must be submitted within the timeframe indicated **on the original cost estimate.**
 6. **Cost estimates are only valid for the timeframe indicated on the estimate. Payment in full must be made to the City’s Department of Finance within this timeframe in order for work to proceed.**
 7. The work will begin as soon as possible. The construction season runs approximately from June to December.

Who is eligible to participate?

All property owners with **non**-vaulted sidewalks are eligible to participate. Custom sidewalks (e.g., granite, colored, custom designs, etc.), vaulted sidewalks, and private property sidewalks are **not** eligible to be included in the program.

Who is eligible for the senior citizen or persons with disabilities discount?

Seniors (age 65 or older) or disabled owner-occupants of non-commercial properties of four units or less.

What information is required to receive the senior citizen or persons with disabilities rate?

Seniors age 65 or older must provide proof of age, ownership, and occupancy:

- Ownership: tax bill (2nd installment) or title deed
- Age: birth certificate or driver’s license or 2nd installment tax bill showing senior exemption
- Occupancy: voter’s card or utility bill

Persons with disabilities must provide proof of ownership, occupancy, and disability:

- Ownership: tax bill (2nd installment) or title deed
- Occupancy: voter’s card or utility bill
- Disability: Must provide one of the following:
 - Disability benefits received from Social Security Administration, Veterans Administration, Civil Service, or Railroad Retirement
 - Class 2 disability card from the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office

Documentation verifying the senior citizen or persons with disabilities rate should be submitted by one of the following options:

- Fax to (312) 744-6438, ATTN: Shared Cost Sidewalk Program
- Email to: cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org
- Mail to :

Shared Cost Sidewalk Program
Chicago Department of Transportation
2 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 820
Chicago, Illinois 60602

For any assistance with or questions regarding the senior citizen or persons with disabilities rate, please contact CDOT at 312-744-1746 or email us at cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org.

What does the scope of work include?

The scope of a Shared Cost Sidewalk Program project is limited to sidewalk within the public right-of-way and may include replacing the main sidewalk in front of the property, the sidewalk thru a driveway, the existing courtesy walk (the smaller walkway that runs perpendicular to the main walk, from the main walk to the curb) and existing landing steps (the small strip of concrete sometimes found adjacent to the curb). Sidewalk on private property will only be included if needed for transition purposes; otherwise it is **NOT** eligible for replacement under the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program. Owners of corner properties will be charged for sidewalk on both the main (address) side and non-address side of the property.

Replacement is based on engineering considerations. In order to minimize the cost to property owners and increase the number of Shared Cost Sidewalk Program Participants, only the portion of sidewalk in need of replacement as determined by CDOT is eligible for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program pricing. The property owner does have the option to replace the entire sidewalk in front of the property. However, the entire cost to remove and replace the portion of sidewalk determined by CDOT to be in good condition will be charged to the property owner. **NO** senior or persons with disabilities discount will apply to this work. To clarify, the City will not pay for removal and replacement of sidewalk in good condition.

Will the driveway apron be replaced?

If your driveway crosses the sidewalk, the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program scope of work may include the sidewalk through the driveway. Abandoned driveway aprons no longer in use will be removed and replaced with topsoil. Grass seed or sod will not be placed on these areas. Removing abandoned driveway aprons and replacing with topsoil will be paid for by the City.

Due to significant participant interest, the removal and replacement of **permitted** driveway aprons (the portion of driveway between the sidewalk and curb) can be added to the project. In order to find out the additional cost, please reach out to the Chicago Department of Transportation at cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org

Will the area receive grass seed or sod?

No. Crews will not seed or sod the area around the main walk, courtesy walk and landing step if the soil is disrupted during construction.

Will pavers or other structures in the parkway be reset when work is completed?

Brick pavers, fencing, and planters or any other obstructions in the parkway may be removed during construction and will be loosely reset when construction is completed. Reinstallation of removed elements is the property owner's responsibility.

What if tree roots have damaged the existing courtesy walk or landing step?

If necessary the existing courtesy walk or landing step will be removed and replaced further away from the tree to help avoid future damage. If it is determined the courtesy walk or landing step cannot be either replaced in the current location or relocated, it will be replaced with topsoil. Grass seed or sod will not be placed on these areas. Removing courtesy walks or landing steps and replacing with topsoil will be charged to you at the standard Shared Cost Sidewalk Program rate.

What if there is a sprinkler system at the property?

The City is **NOT** responsible for sprinkler systems in the parkway or adjacent to the sidewalk. Property owners are advised to cut and cap the lines and remove any sprinkler heads that may be damaged during the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program work. Property owners should notify the city of an existing sprinkler system in order to minimize any potential damage.

Is there any warranty for the work?

Yes. Sidewalk construction has a warranty of one year from the date of construction, covering significant deterioration of the sidewalk. (Note: Some small cracks, especially in sidewalk joints, are common. Since they are not caused by construction, they are not covered by the warranty).

Is this bill final?

This bill is based on measurements and is considered final. If it is later determined that more work is needed you will NOT be billed for that additional work. Furthermore, if the amount of work is reduced for any reason, your money will be refunded if the difference is \$100 or greater. Please contact our office at 312-744-1746 before sending your payment if you would like to request any changes to the scope of work represented on this bill.

If you have any additional questions, please contact CDOT at 312-744-1746 or email us at cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org.