



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2022

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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES "CHICAGO MOVES" PROVIDING GAS AND TRANSIT RELIEF TO 150,000 CHICAGO RESIDENTS

Program will combat spiking costs of gas and rising inflation by providing \$12.5M in relief funding for Chicagoans

CHICAGO – Chicago City Council today passed Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot's Chicago Moves program. The program was created in response to the recent spike in gas prices and the need for expedited transportation assistance for City residents. Now approved, Chicago Moves will provide \$12.5 million in relief funding for Chicagoans through prepaid gas cards for up to 50,000 drivers and prepaid transit cards for up to 100,000 transit riders.

"The passage of Chicago Moves is a win for all Chicago residents struggling with transportation expenses," said Mayor Lori Lightfoot. "By assisting Chicago residents with their expenses for gas and transit, this program will enable participants to save their resources for other critical expenses and focus on their own needs and goals. I thank my colleagues in City Council for approving this funding and helping our residents to keep moving."

Chicagoans now pay an average of 4.5% of their annual income at the pump, compared to 3.1% of their annual income one year ago, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA) and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT). This 1.4% increase is consistent with statewide trends, where the cost of gas has similarly risen by approximately \$1.45 per gallon over the last year as well as nationwide trends, where the cost of gas has increased by \$1.38 per gallon over the previous year. According to the same findings, Americans are now spending nearly \$70 each time they fill up their tanks.

"Surging costs are making it harder for our neighbors to make ends meet. Regardless of what global forces are at play, we are heartened by local efforts to meet the urgent financial needs of the community," said Director of Economic Security for Illinois Harish I. Patel. "We know that the best form of support—especially when the need is urgent—is direct cash. ESIL fully supports the City of Chicago's plan to provide prepaid transit and physical prepaid cards to low-income



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Chicagoans, alongside other policies that invest directly in families, workers, and neighborhoods.”

For Chicago drivers, 50,000 prepaid gas cards, each valued at \$150, will be distributed to eligible selected applicants. 75% of the prepaid gas cards will be given to those who reside in high mobility hardship community areas. These are areas determined by the length of time residents spend traveling to work, the amount of income spent on transportation, and the number of residents with one or more disabilities. Similar to the prepaid transit cards, the remaining 25% of the prepaid gas cards will be distributed in equal amounts to each ward.

“This is a responsible approach to provide working people with transportation cost relief as they commute to and from their jobs,” said Bob Reiter, President, Chicago Federation of Labor. “We support the Mayor’s effort to uplift Chicago residents working to support their families and earn a meaningful living.”

For transit riders, 100,000 prepaid transit cards, each valued at \$50, will be distributed to eligible applicants. 75,000 cards are earmarked for those living in one of the City’s high mobility hardship community areas. The remaining 25,000 prepaid transit cards will be distributed in equal amounts to every ward.

“The CTA remains the most affordable and convenient way to get around the city, and we work hard every day to provide the essential service that so many Chicagoans rely on—especially when public transit is the only option,” said CTA President Dorval R. Carter, Jr. “Public transit is key to the city’s recovery from the pandemic, and as workers begin returning to the office and residents return to their routines, our trains and buses are ready to get them there.”

Any Chicago resident at least 18 years old earning a household income at, or below the area median income can apply for a prepaid transit card. Those applying for a prepaid gas card must have a current valid City of Chicago vehicle sticker.

Chicago residents can apply online at chicago.gov/ChicagoMoves, or fill out a paper application at any Chicago Public Library. Applicants can only apply for one of the prepaid gas cards or prepaid transit cards, and applications are limited to one per household.

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