

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

2014 Budget Statement to the City Council Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

November 6, 2013

Karen Tamley, Commissioner

Good morning, Chairman Austin and esteemed members of the Committee on Budget and Government Operations, as well as members of the City Council. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities' (MOPD) budget request for fiscal year 2014.

MOPD promotes total access, full participation and equal opportunity for people with all types of disabilities. Our comprehensive approach to systemic change for people with disabilities includes: the delivery of direct independent living services; public education and awareness about disability issues; policy reform; and initiatives with the goal of making Chicago the most accessible and inclusive city in the nation.

Additionally, MOPD provides disability-related expertise to City departments and sister agencies, as well as to private sector companies and non-profit organizations.

2013 Accomplishments

The current year has been very productive and successful for MOPD.

Increasing the Independence of Chicago Residents with Disabilities

From January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, MOPD provided over the phone and in-person Information and Referral services to 34,762 individuals; in-home personal assistance/homemaker services to 345 individuals; Independent Living Program services to 528 individuals and assistive technology services to 123 residents.

Since September 2012, the HomeMod Program has modified 86 homes to increase accessibility for low-income individuals from a diverse cross-section of disability type, age, race and ethnicity. Individuals residing in 48 of 50 wards have been provided with home modifications such as lifts, ramps, and accessible kitchens and bathrooms.

MOPD distributes free amplified land-line phones to individuals who are hard-of-hearing and unable to use the telephone. We expedited delivery by securing a nurse practitioner to complete on-the-spot mandatory medical evaluations of our customers. In 2013, MOPD distributed 139 amplified phones generating \$5,800 in revenue. Twice this year, MOPD has been named the "number one" distribution site out of the 20 Illinois distribution sites.

Utilizing a grant from the Chicago Meals on Wheels Program, MOPD implemented a pilot program to fill a gap in current services for people with disabilities under the age of 60 who are unable to prepare their own meals and have no support for meal preparation. By late 2013, we expect this program to be a permanent service offered by MOPD and funded by Meals on Wheels.

Emergency Preparedness Planning & Public Safety for People with Disabilities

MOPD has continued to partner with the Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC), the Chicago Fire Department (CFD), the Department of Public Health (CDPH) and other departments to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the City's emergency planning. In 2013, MOPD:

- Continued working with OEMC to develop a strategic plan to ensure that emergency shelters utilized by the City are accessible to the disability community;
- Worked with OEMC, Fire, DFSS and Law to identify ways to provide alternative resources to individuals who call 911 for non-emergency and non-medical assistance;
- Provided CFD Emergency Management Services (EMS) training on disability awareness and appropriate interactions with people with disabilities; and
- Participated in an emergency preparedness drill conducted by OEMC and the CFD designed to prepare the City's first responders for a tornado that results in significant building damage and trapped individuals. In addition to our role at the Command Center, MOPD also sought volunteers with disabilities to participate to help train first responders.

Making Chicago a More Accessible City

One of MOPD's key functions is to increase accessibility throughout the city and achieve greater compliance with federal, state and municipal disability laws. MOPD's Accessibility Compliance Unit (ACU) works to guarantee the ongoing accessibility of commercial and residential buildings through the provision of permitting, pre-permit review and technical assistance to developers and architects. In 2013, ACU:

- Completed permit plan reviews of 1,545 proposed construction projects and 152 pre-permit plan reviews for compliance with the accessibility provisions of the Chicago Building Code. This reflects an increase of more than 70 percent in the number of permit plan reviews completed by MOPD over the same time period last year;
- Responded to more than 2,600 requests for technical assistance on all aspects of federal, state and City disability rights laws and regulations;
- Conducted two accessibility code trainings for self-certified architects who are not subject to permit plan review by MOPD and semi-annual training of self-certified architects is expected to continue in 2014;
- Completed the first 18 departmental reports for our ongoing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation which provide a detailed analysis of the accessibility of the ways each department provides goods and services to the public as well as the accessibility of the facilities used to provide them;
- Completed significant work in rewriting the accessibility provisions of the Chicago Building Code (CBC) to make it consistent with the 2010 ADA Standards. This revision will make it easier for architects, developers, businesses and people with disabilities to ensure that newly constructed and altered buildings are accessible and compliant with all applicable laws. We expect to complete this process in 2013; and
- Provided technical assistance and plan review for the Charter One Pavilion, the Taste of Chicago and other summer festivals, the design of several new or altered CTA stations, the River Walk, the Navy Pier renovation; and issues related to parks, trails and other recreation areas owned or operated by the City or its sister agencies;

Additionally, MOPD has:

- Provided 186 disability awareness and etiquette trainings for public and private sector employers, City departments and other government agencies (approximately 9,889 individuals);
- Worked with BACP to improve taxi services to people with disabilities by awarding a medallion to a taxi driver who provides exemplary service to people with disabilities, launching the new Central Dispatch service for accessible taxicabs and forming an Accessible Taxi Advisory Committee to give accessible taxi stakeholders the opportunity to advise the City and improve service;
- Provided significant input on State legislation that was enacted to increase the accessibility of gas stations for people with disabilities;
- Worked with CPS to develop a Disability Awareness Training curriculum that will be used to train all CPS personnel, teachers, principals, cabinet and security officers district-wide; and
- Worked with DoIT to conduct an assessment of the City's technology infrastructure. Strategies for barrier removal will begin in 2014.

Finally, MOPD is currently working with CPS, OBM and DHED to complete a funding initiative to increase the accessibility of various CPS schools.

Parking Reforms and Legislation

As a continuation of our efforts to reduce disabled parking abuse, MOPD:

- Provided significant input on state legislation that created a two tier eligibility criteria for parking meter exemptions. Under the legislation, only individuals with disabilities that prevent them from using parking meters would be exempt from parking meter payment; and
- Continued to partner with the Chicago Police Department on enforcement actions to stem fraud and misuse of the disabled parking placard program. Widespread outreach was conducted through the media and the posting of fliers on vehicles warning motorists displaying disabled parking placards of the potential fines and penalties. Since August 2012, 2,087 vehicles have been checked, 375 motorists have been ticketed, 363 placards have been confiscated and 10 vehicles have been impounded for placard fraud or misuse.

Promoting Employment and Economic Opportunities

Unemployment among the disability community remains a serious issue in Chicago and nationwide. To combat this issue, MOPD provides comprehensive benefits analysis to Chicago Social Security disability beneficiaries of all ages under a federal Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) grant from the Social Security Administration (SSA). In 2013, approximately 180 students and stakeholders attended our Youth Summits; and from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, 29,219 people with disabilities have received direct services/information assistance, 124 have received job placements and 73 have received SSA benefit analysis and information about available employment initiatives to support their efforts to begin or return to work.

MOPD's Youth Employment Programs (YEP) continue to be primarily self-sustaining through the support of private-sector monetary and in-kind sponsorships. In 2013, MOPD collaborated with CPS' Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services to host the first annual Student Transition Fair that drew 741 students with disabilities. Throughout the year, MOPD, together with the Chicago Public Schools, have worked with approximately 948 youth with disabilities throughout the year to provide job readiness and opportunities.

In 2013, MOPD also convened a series of roundtables for private sector companies to address the issue of employment of people with disabilities.

2014 Programs, Services and Initiatives

Serving Residents with Disabilities

In 2014, MOPD will continue to provide its full array of services to Chicagoans with disabilities and veterans in response to the critical state of the economy and in an effort to reach our goal of making Chicago a world-class disability-friendly city.

Due to the lack of accessible housing stock in Chicago, the HomeMod Program is one of the highest in-demand direct services MOPD provides. By the end of 2013, MOPD expects to send out approximately 250 applications. Next year's funding will allow MOPD to address the overwhelming demand for home modifications.

Additionally, MOPD will continue to work with the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) and the disability community to increase the number of accessible taxicabs and enhance service to our residents with disabilities.

Promoting Accessibility Compliance

In 2014, MOPD's Accessibility Compliance Unit will:

- Complete the citywide ADA self-evaluation, including individual reports and prioritized recommendations for each department and the development of a high-level, city-wide prioritized report and implementation plan;
- Submit for approval code updates for accessibility provisions of the Building Code;
- Provide a comprehensive training program on the ADA and Rehabilitation Act for City managers and key staff to increase awareness and understanding of the law and improve access to City programs and services;
- Work with the DoIT to implement a plan to ensure the City's technology infrastructure is accessible to people with disabilities by requiring that all new technology and software purchases comply with established accessibility criteria;
- Develop guidance materials and developing and implementing training programs to help small businesses, people with disabilities and others understand the new Chicago Building Code accessibility requirements; and
- Establish a greater online presence by providing access to laws, regulations and guidance materials in accessible formats, posting interpretations of the accessibility provisions of the Chicago Building Code and other disability rights laws and regulations; and creating a list of ongoing projects and initiatives, giving people the opportunity to comment.

Parking Reforms and Legislation

As a continuation of our efforts to reduce disabled parking abuses, MOPD will work with the Chicago Police Department and other departments to continue parking enforcement actions to eliminate the fraudulent use of disabled placards in downtown metered parking spaces. MOPD

will also be working with the Secretary of State's Office to conduct outreach to the disability community on the implementation of the new two-tiered placard program. As a member of the Secretary of State's Parking Task Force, MOPD will also be advising on other parking reform laws as they are considered by the General Assembly.

Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety

MOPD will continue its work to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the City's emergency preparedness plans. In 2014, MOPD will

- Work in partnership with OEMC, CFD, DFSS to provide alternative resources to individuals who call 911 for non-emergency and non-medical assistance;
- Finalize the citywide emergency shelter plan (with OEMC and CDPH) that will identify, prioritize and GEO code an inventory of all accessible facilities;
- Work with the CFD on its FEMA grant that will focus on fire safety for people who are blind or visually-impaired. 2014 benchmarks include conducting fire safety sessions and distributing accessible smoke detectors to people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing;
- Continue the efforts of the Pedestrian Access Advisory Committee which MOPD co-chairs with CDOT. The Advisory Committee solicits input from the disability community on city infrastructure affecting pedestrians with disabilities;

In closing, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities will continue to provide dedicated customer service and advocacy on behalf of Chicagoans with disabilities in the upcoming year. MOPD's budget reflects the departments best efforts to sustain integral programs, services and priority initiatives in the coming year. MOPD will remain steadfast in its commitment to maximize all available resources to increase accessibility, opportunity and the independence of people with disabilities who live, visit and work in Chicago.

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities 2014 Budget Hearing

MBE/WBE Data

Period: January 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013

Total Purchases: \$158,568.43

	MBE	WBE	BEPD	Total MBE/WBE Purchases
WBE		\$2,493.08(1.6%)		\$2,493.08 (1.6%)
Asian	\$6,102.89 (3.8%)	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$6,102.89 (3.8%)
African-American	\$2,381.40 (1.5%)	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$2,381.40 (1.5%)
Hispanic	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)
BEPD	\$0 (0%)	\$0 (0%)	\$112,730.75(71%)	\$112,730.75 (71%)
Total Spending	\$8,484.29 (5.3%)	\$2,493.08 (1.6%)	\$112,730.75 (71%)	\$123,708.12(77.9%)

Staffing Data

Department Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	1	2	3	10%
Black	3	8	11	38%
Hispanic	1	2	3	10%
White	4	8	12	42%
Total	9	20	29	
	31%	69%		100%

Disabled - Department Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	1	1	3%
Black	1	0	1	3%
Hispanic	1	1	2	7%
White	2	4	6	21%
Total	4	6	10	
	13%	21%		34%

Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	0	0	0
Black	0	3	3	30%
Hispanic	0	0	0	0
White	3	4	7	70%
Total	3	7	10	
	30%	70%		100%

Disabled - Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	0	0	0%
Black	0	0	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0	0	0%
White	2	2	4	40%
Total	2	2	4	
	20%	20%		40%

New Hires Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	0	0	0
Black	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	0	0	0
White	0	1	1	3.4%
Total	0	1	1	
	0%	3.4%		

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities 2014 Budget Hearing

Interns

School	Gender	Race
Northeastern Illinois University	Female	Hispanic
University of Illinois	Male	Black

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

2014 Proposed - Program Organizational Chart

