

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

**2015 Budget Statement to the City Council Committee
on the Budget and Government Operations**

October 29, 2014

Karen Tamley, Commissioner

Good morning, Chairman Austin and esteemed 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 2015.

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.

2014 Accomplishments

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

Increasing the Independence of Chicago Residents with Disabilities

From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, MOPD provided over the phone and in-person information & referral assistance to 31,777 individuals, in-home personal assistance/homemaker services to 191 individuals and independent living services to 392 individuals. MOPD provided assistive technology to 52 residents.

Over the past year, 74 homes were modified for accessibility, including lifts, accessible entryways, kitchens and bathrooms. Additionally, MOPD revised the application process for the Home Mod Program by eliminating the application deadlines and establishing a year-round application process. This will give residents more opportunities to apply without running the risk of missing the deadline.

MOPD distributes free amplified land-line phones to individuals who are hard-of-hearing and unable to use the telephone. Since 2013, MOPD distributed 307 amplified land-line phones

In collaboration with the Chicago Meals on Wheels, MOPD implemented a pilot program for people with disabilities under the age of 60, who are unable to prepare their own meals and have support for meal preparation. This initiative fills a gap in current services.

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) and other departments to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the City's emergency planning. In 2014, 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, CFD, DFSS and Law to identify ways to provide alternative resources to individuals who call 911 for non-emergency and non-medical assistance;
- reviewed and made recommendations for revisions to the Department of Aviation's Emergency Operation Plan;
- worked with CFD to meet the benchmarks of its FEMA Fire Safety Grant, which include hosting fire safety seminars for CPS students with disabilities and distributing smoke detectors that are accessible to people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing;
- sponsored a Town Hall meeting with OEMC and FEMA in October on emergency planning for people with disabilities; and
- increased its role in the City's emergency weather response through well-being checks and distributing information on warming shelters and other disability-specific information.

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 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.

ACU:

- conducted 4,099 completed plan reviews, 508 pre-permit plan reviews; generated \$58,025 in fees from preliminary plan reviews and responded to 8,589 requests for technical assistance (from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014);
- started tracking the number of accessible housing units created for people with disabilities;
- as part of the City's Title II Self-Evaluation Program, conducted self-evaluation surveys of all City facilities and programs and completed draft reports for 19 of the City's departments identifying accessible barriers and suggested barrier removal actions for each;
- conducted five trainings on accessibility requirements of the Building Code for self-certified architects;
- completed significant work on revising the accessibility provisions of the Chicago Building Code (CBC) to align them with the requirements of the 2010 ADA Standards, update and

strengthen them based on recent experience and elevate the accessibility of multi-family housing constructed in the city;

- conducted accessibility reviews of the City's major infrastructure projects, including Wrigley Field, Navy Pier, the River Walk, the new DePaul Arena, Malcolm X College, Argyle Street, and numerous Chicago Public Schools, CTA stations and parks;
- finalized the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance Disability Regulations, which were announced by the Mayor at MOPD's AccessChicago event on July 17th and approved by the Commission on Human Relations in September 2014; and
- worked with DoIT and an outside technology consultant to conduct an assessment of the City's technology infrastructure.

MOPD also works to make Chicago more accessible through its training programs. This past year, MOPD provided disability awareness and etiquette training to public and private employees (700 individuals between June 30, 2013 and June 30, 2014). MOPD also provided two national disability awareness and etiquette webinar trainings for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Passenger Support Specialists.

MOPD also worked with the Department of Procurement Services to develop a City-wide contract for sign language interpreter and CART services. A City-wide contract will simplify the process that departments use to secure these services for meetings and events.

Parking Reforms and Legislation

As a continuation of our efforts to reduce disabled parking abuse, MOPD helped coordinate numerous CPD parking enforcement actions to eliminate fraudulent use of disabled parking placards. From January 1 to September 29, 2014, 627 vehicles were checked, 115 placards were confiscated, 96 parking citations were issued, and 14 vehicles were towed. MOPD also assisted the Secretary of State's Office with marketing and outreach efforts for the new two-tiered placard program.

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). From August 2013 to June 30, 2014, 171 benefit analyses were conducted, 19,125 individuals received direct services/information assistance and 83 have received job placements. Additionally:

- MOPD's Youth Employment Program (YEP) provides job readiness and opportunities to CPS students with disabilities. Two Employment Readiness Summits have been held for CPS students with disabilities. Since 2014, approximately 600 students have participated;
- MOPD has held two Employment Roundtables for Chicago companies on hiring people with disabilities;

- MOPD worked with the Department of Human Resources to develop a city-wide Reasonable Accommodation Policy and Procedure; and
- MOPD has been working with local business leaders to re-establish the Chicagoland Business Leadership Network (CBLN). The CLBN is a network of Chicagoland businesses committed to increasing the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace, marketplace and supply chain. The CLBN is scheduled to re-launch in early 2015 with new leadership, branding and business plans.

Increasing the Number of Accessible Taxi Cabs and Improving Service for the Disability Community

In 2014, MOPD:

- participated in discussions leading to new provisions in the Transportation Network Providers (TNP) rideshare ordinance;
- completed a draft regulation on accessible taxicab credit card meter technology;
- worked with Olive Harvey College to enhance disability training for public chauffeurs providing service to people with disabilities;
- served on the Selection Committee to award a taxi medallion to a taxi driver who provides excellent service to people with disabilities;
- held leadership roles on two Task Forces (The Public Chauffeur Training Reform Task Force and the Accessibility Fund Task Force), whose missions are to increase the number of accessible cabs and improved taxi and TNP services for people with disabilities;
- MOPD will also participate on the recently launched Public Passenger Vehicle Underserved Areas Review Task Force; and
- helped facilitate an educational hearing for City Council members and the public on accessible taxi service.

2015 Programs, Services and Initiatives

Serving Residents with Disabilities

In 2015, 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.

Promoting Accessibility Compliance

In 2015, MOPD will:

- work with the Commission on Human Relations to launch an outreach/educational initiative to the disability community and the business community on the new Human Rights Ordinance Disability Regulation and how businesses can become accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities;

- convene a meeting with Chicago's water passenger vehicles (water taxis, architectural tours, Odyssey, etc.) to discuss issues and the unmet need of equal access to water transportation;
- work with the Mayor's Office to either introduce a City ordinance or implement a policy that will require all technology purchased by the City to be accessible to individuals with disabilities;
- finalize and secure City Council approval of an amendment to the accessibility chapter of the Chicago Building Code (this will be followed by an outreach strategy to educate architects and developers on the new code requirements);
- continue working with the Department of Aviation to made additional accessibility improvements to both airports and to the accessibility information that is provided via its website for travelers with disabilities; and
- continue revising its materials on how City departments and agencies can ensure that their meetings are accessible to people with disabilities, i.e. how to secure sign language interpreters and provide materials in alternate formats.

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 2015, MOPD will:

- work in partnership with OEMC, CFD, DFSS to provide appropriate and alternative resources to individuals who call 911 for non-emergency and non-medical assistance;
- finalize and launch a citywide emergency shelter plan (with OEMC and CDPH) that will identify, prioritize and GEO code an inventory of all accessible facilities;
- 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); and
- hold another Town Hall Meeting on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities (partners will include OEMC and FEMA).

Increasing the Number of Accessible Taxi Cabs and Improving Service for the Disability Community

MOPD will continue its work with BACP and the Accessible Taxicab Advisory Council on initiatives that will increase the number of accessible taxis and improve services for passengers with disabilities. In 2015, MOPD will work with BACP to:

- initiate strategies to enhance driver training and phase-in technology that will allow passengers who are blind or visually-impaired to utilize audible fare payment systems;
- implement the recommendations of the Public Chauffeur Training Reform Task Force, the Accessibility Fund Task Force and the Public Passenger Underserved Areas Review Task Force;
- monitor the service provided by the transportation network providers to the disability community; and
- maximize public chauffeur vehicle services to people with disabilities.

Increase Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

MOPD will seek to amend the BEPD Certification Program to include service disabled veterans, which will result in a larger pool of certified BEPDs. MOPD will also work with sister agencies toward their adoption of the City's BEPD certification.

MOPD will work with Chicago's disability community and the ADA25 Chicago on a legacy initiative aimed at increasing the employment rate of people with disabilities in Chicago.

Finally, MOPD has been working closely with the Chicago Community Trust to launch the ADA 25 – a new initiative in recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the ADA. ADA 25 will engage civic, business and community leaders to improve the lives of people with disabilities through widespread public awareness and legacy projects. The initiatives will culminate with a region-wide celebration that will showcase the talents and diversity of the disability community. Efforts to launch ADA 25 will continue through December 2015.

In closing, MOPD will continue to provide dedicated customer service and advocacy on behalf of Chicagoans with disabilities in the upcoming year. MOPD's budget reflects the department's 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 independence for people with disabilities who live, visit and work in Chicago.

Thank you.

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities 2015 Budget Hearing

MBE/WBE/ BEPD Contracting Data

Period: January 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014

Total Purchases: No departmental prime contracts

Staffing Data

Department Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	1	2	3	10%
Black	3	7	10	34%
Hispanic	2	2	4	14%
White	4	8	12	42%
Total	10	19	29	
	34%	66%		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	2	2	20%
Hispanic	1	0	1	10%
White	3	4	7	70%
Total	4	6	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%

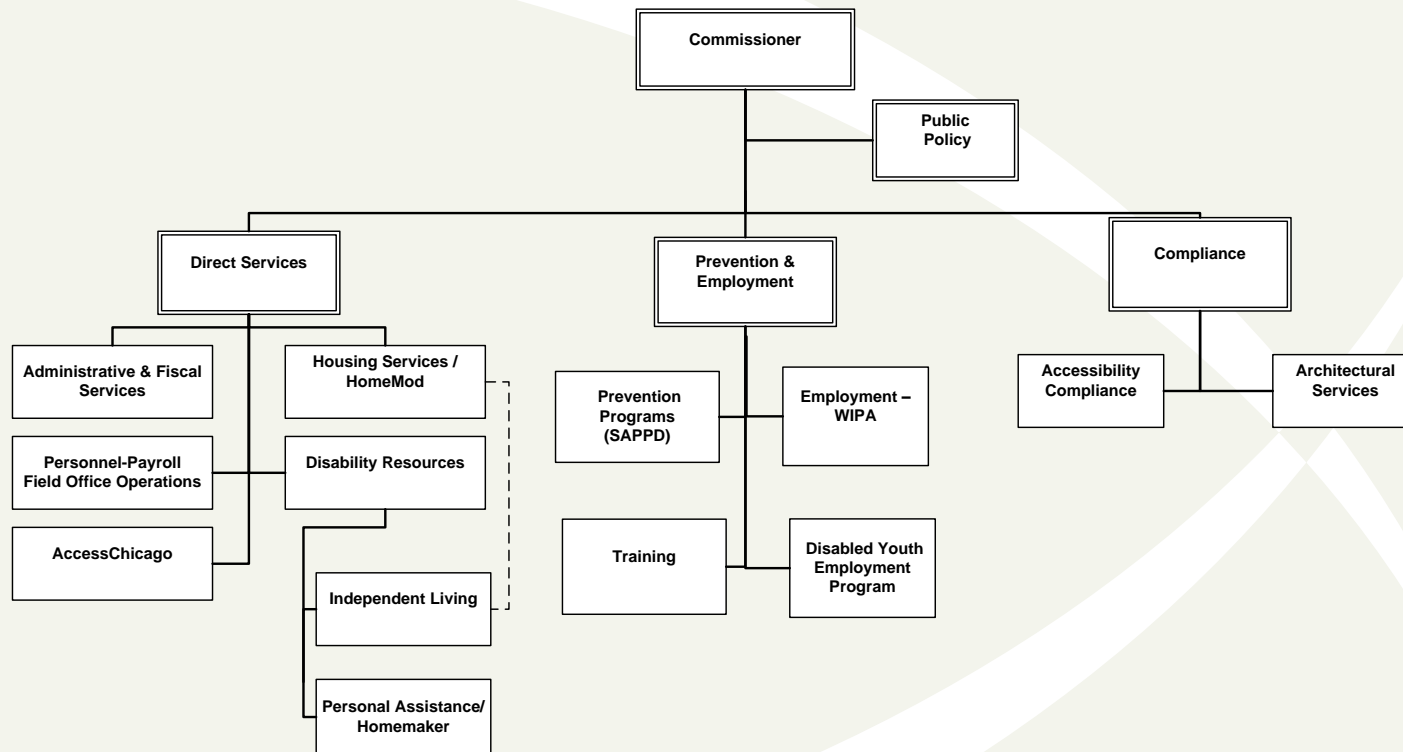
New Hires Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	0	0	0%
Black	0	0	0	0%
Hispanic	1	0	1	100%
White	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	0	1	
	100%	0%		

Interns

School	Gender	Race
Walden University	Male	Asian

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

2015 Program & Services Organizational Chart



10-14-14