



**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES
CITY OF CHICAGO**

**STATEMENT FROM THE COMMISSIONER
TO THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS**

OCTOBER 24, 2014

Chairman Austin and members of the City Council Committee on the Budget & Government Operations:

I am pleased to be here with you today to present the Department of Family and Support Services' (DFSS) proposed 2015 Budget.

Through its Community Service Centers and Senior Centers and a network of more than 300 delegate agencies, DFSS provides a continuum of services and resources that assists more than 300,000 Chicago residents in need each year.

Indeed, there are few entities in City government that touch as many people's lives as deeply and as personally as DFSS.

We help to provide early learning opportunities for Chicago's children and support for their parents; summer jobs and after-school engagement for our youth; transitional housing and supportive services for homeless families; guidance and aid to our proud veterans; support and a safe haven for victims of domestic violence; job training and placement help for the unemployed; care and life-enrichment opportunities for our seniors; and a second chance to returning citizens.

DFSS and its delegate agencies are fortunate to have the strong support of the Chicago City Council and a Mayor who have both continuously demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the services we provide. New investments in our budget will permit us to have an even greater impact on the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

2015 INVESTMENTS DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON FAMILIES, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND OUR MOST VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

Ensuring the safety, well-being and healthy development of Chicago's families, children and youth, as well as our most vulnerable residents, remains a Mayoral and departmental priority.

We are proud to announce the following program expansions and priorities in 2015.

HEAD START, EARLY HEADSTART AND CHILD CARE

In 2015, DFSS will invest over \$170 million in Head Start, Early Head Start and Child Care programs, including \$15 million as part of a multi-year commitment to expanding access and quality of early learning programs for Chicago's children most in need. Thanks to these investments, we will achieve the Mayor's goal of universal pre-K for all 4-year olds who qualify for free or reduced student lunch.

Building on unprecedented investments already made by Mayor Emanuel in early education, our 2015 budget includes \$15 million that will allow us to sustain prior year investments, expand early education opportunities to an additional 500 infants and toddlers from low-income families, and help reach the Mayor's goal of universal pre-school for the entire population of approximately 25,000 4-year-olds that qualify for the federal free or reduced school lunch program.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

In order to ensure that we are keeping Chicago's young people learning and safe throughout the year, DFSS will expand after-school, summer jobs and violence-reduction programs for youth and continue to coordinate the One Summer Chicago initiative. In total, we will serve over 34,000 youth in our programs, an increase of 14,000 youth, or 70%, since 2011.

In 2015, DFSS will again expand after-school and summer jobs programs. A new commitment this year will allow us to invest a total of:

- \$14.3 million in after-school opportunities for nearly 17,000 children. This represents a 30% increase in youth served since Mayor Emanuel took office in 2011.
- \$16.1 million investment in summer jobs, which will fund the City's portion of the Mayor's goal of 24,000 summer jobs, increasing the number of youth served by summer jobs by 70%, or 10,000 opportunities, since 2011.

HOMELESS SERVICES

Continuing to Support Homeless Youth – As you know, DFSS has been working hard to implement many of the programs outlined in Homeless Plan 2.0, including those designed to break the cycle of homelessness early on by focusing on homeless youth. In 2014, DFSS worked with the Chicago Task Force on Homeless Youth to conduct the city’s first-ever count of homeless youth. Survey results provide critical information on the demographics, experiences accessing services, and service needs of young people facing housing instability in Chicago.

In 2015, DFSS will continue to dedicate \$2 million to support four regional drop-in support centers and 74 year-round overnight shelter beds serving more than 1,500 homeless youth each year, a commitment the Mayor has made for the past two years. Additionally, we will work with the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality to build the capacity of our network of homeless youth drop-in centers and shelters.

Making Better Housing Connections – In 2014, DFSS continued its efforts to connect homeless people to permanent housing options, helping 262 homeless households through the Rapid Rehousing Program, and placing 47 chronically homeless people into permanent supportive housing through the Homeward Bound program. Next year, our goal will be to continue to more effectively coordinate our outreach efforts to unsheltered homeless people, including making better use of technology, and more effectively matching people to appropriate housing options.

New Housing Resources for Homeless Veterans – No one who fights to defend our homes should struggle to find a home. That’s why ending veteran homelessness is a priority for Mayor Emanuel. To help end veteran homelessness in Chicago by the end of 2015, DFSS will supplement investments by the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Veterans Affairs. We will provide permanent supportive housing to three dozen veterans in need of long-term assistance, and will provide rapid rehousing services to more than 70 veteran households.

Next Step Housing Program for Homeless Families – In 2015, DFSS will support a 75-bed interim housing program for homeless families, which will offer residents apartment-style accommodations and supportive services focused on helping them make the transition to permanent housing as quickly as possible. These services will help families overcome the barriers that led to their homelessness and enable them to achieve self-sufficiency.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As part of the Mayor's and the City's domestic violence strategy, in 2015 we will have the first domestic violence shelter in ten years. The two-story facility shelter will create 40 new beds and serve more than 100 families in its first year, providing a safe place and supportive services.

Next year, we will also continue to support the Resource and Information Advocates (RIA) program, which served 5,781 victims of domestic violence in its first year, nearly double the initial projection of 3,000 clients. RIAs court advocacy program ensures that domestic violence victims have the advocacy help they need when going through the court process.

In 2015, we will continue to work closely with the Chicago Police department to ensure we are working as one to end the senseless cycle of domestic violence and protect victims and their families.

In conclusion, the Department of Family and Support Services is proud to work on behalf of Mayor Emanuel to advocate for and implement programs that keep vulnerable Chicagoans safe, engaged, and prepared to play a leading role in our city's future.

We thank the Chicago City Council for its continued support and for working closely with the department to address pressing social service issues in your communities.

You are our partners in this vital work, and together with you, we look forward to making a positive impact in the lives of our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn Diaz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Evelyn J. Diaz
Commissioner

Family and Support Services 2015 Budget Hearing

MBE/WBE Contracting Data

Period: 1/1/14 – 10/7/14

Total Purchases: \$283,161.07

<u>MBE/WBE Spend</u>	
WBE:	\$9,200 (3%)
Asian MBE:	\$176,761.07 (62%)
African-American MBE:	\$0 (0%)
Hispanic MBE:	\$0 (0%)
Total Purchases:	\$185,961.07 (65%)

Staffing Data as of 10-16-14

Department Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	3	9	12	3%
Black	39	172	211	58%
Hispanic	22	53	75	21%
White	22	43	65	18%
Total	79	272	363	
	24%	76%		

Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	1	1	2	3%
Black	12	28	40	53%
Hispanic	3	10	13	17%
White	9	11	20	27%
Total	25	50	75	
	33%	67%		

New Hires Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	0	0	0
Black	1	6	7	87%
Hispanic	0	1	1	13%
White	0	0	0	0
Total	1	7	8	
	13%	87%		

Family and Support Services 2015 Budget Hearing

Interns

School	Gender	Race
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology	Male	Hispanic
Indiana University	Female	Asian
University of Chicago	Female	Black
University of Illinois – Chicago	Female	White
University of Illinois – Chicago	Female	Asian/Pacific Islander
University of Illinois – Chicago	Female	White
University of California	Female	Asian/Pacific Islander
Chicago State University	Female	Black
Chicago State University	Male	Black
Chicago State University	Male	Black
Northeastern Illinois University	Female	Asian/Pacific Islander
Loyola University – Chicago	Female	Hispanic
Southern Illinois University	Female	Black
Illinois Institute of Technology	Female	Asian/Pacific Islander

Department of Family and Support Services

