



Disaster Recovery Public Hearing

May 2025

BUILD 
BETTER 
TOGETHER
MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON

Public Hearing Agenda

1

Speaker Introductions: Introductions from representatives of the City Departments leading the Disaster Recovery Program

2

Storm and Recovery Recap: Review of history of severe floods and storms, impacts on Chicago and the West Side, and the City's recovery work to-date

3

CDBG-DR Program Overview: Share key information on Chicago's \$426M award from HUD and how the federal funding can be used

4

Chicago's Recovery Plan: Learn how the City of Chicago plans to invest in recovery and mitigation

5

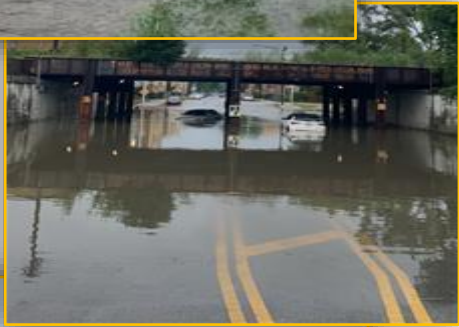
Timeline, Next Steps, and Q&A: Learn about the City's key next steps and engage in Q&A with the audience.

Recent Flooding & Chicago's Recovery



Chicago Storms of 2023 and 2024

Home and street flooding damage occurred primarily during 2023 storms, while damages in 2024 were caused by high-speed winds.



1

June 29th – July 2nd, 2023 (FEMA DR-4728-IL)

A “once-every-500-years” storm with record-setting rainfall that overwhelmed the City’s stormwater infrastructure, causing widespread flooding in homes, businesses and streets.

2

September 17th – 18th, 2023 (FEMA DR-4749-IL)

Long-lasting rainstorm that caused infrastructure damage and led to significant flash flooding in over 1,500 homes primarily on the City’s West Side, compounding damage from the first storm.

3

July 13th – 16th, 2024 (FEMA DR-4819-IL)

A storm system with severe straight-line winds, tornadoes downed trees, disrupted powerlines, and damaged over 95,000 buildings across Chicago.

Most-Impacted Areas of Chicago

While the impacts of the storms were felt across the entire City, the West Side experienced a disproportionate amount of flood-related damage.

Aging homes and infrastructure in **wards 28, 29, 30, and 37** left residents and businessowners vulnerable to basement back ups.



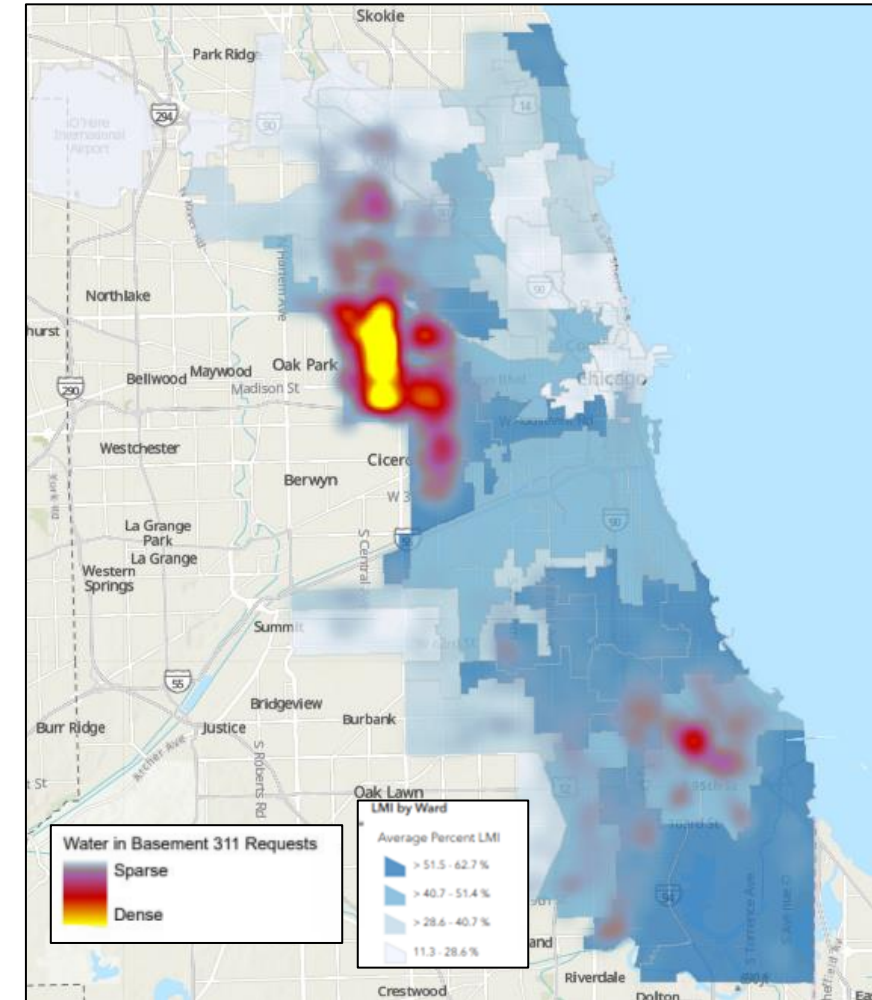
The West Side wards have **just 9.25% of the City's population** but made up almost **50% of 311 basement flooding reports** during the July 2023 storms.



The median house on the West Side is **87 years old, 14 years older** than the citywide median. Aged infrastructure is more susceptible to flooding and storm damages.



271 miles of West Side sewer lines are **less than 1/3rd** the size of modern lines and in need of replacement.



311 Reports: Water in Basement

Taking Action: The City's Emergency Response

Following the three disasters, the City immediately began the recovery response by addressing the most urgent recovery needs and assisting individuals facing home and business damages.

Over **500 City employees** mobilized in the days immediately after the storms to **clear water and debris from flooded homes** and streets.

In partnership with community organizations, City teams **distributed resources** to impacted residents, including over **1,400 flood clean up kits**.

The City worked closely with FEMA to **document storm damages** and support residents in pursuing applications for federal aid, ultimately securing more than **\$168M in direct aid**.



Taking Action: Investing in Flood Recovery

The City has continued coordinating with residents, community organizations, and government partners to secure over \$750M in recovery funding.

Recovery Efforts to Date

Continuous Efforts



Federal Emergency Management Agency

\$149.4M

Housing grants for home repairs

\$19.2M

Provided to replace personal property

Small Business Administration

\$58.4M

Disaster home loans provided

\$15.2M

Small business loans awarded

Insurance

\$136.8K

Distributed through the National Flood Insurance Program

\$1.1M

Claims fulfilled by private insurance companies

CDBG-DR

\$426.6M

Awarded to the City for long-term recovery in housing, infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation

City of Chicago

\$5M

Initial housing relief

\$40M

Additional housing relief

\$5M

Business relief

\$52M

Local infrastructure funding

CDBG – DR Program Overview



What is CDBG-DR?

The Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program is a federal grant program that helps cities, counties, and states recover from Presidentially-declared disasters.



CDBG-DR is designed to address **unmet need** by funding eligible housing, infrastructure, and economic revitalization activities to support **long-term recovery** and **mitigation efforts** after all other funding sources have been exhausted.



The City of Chicago was awarded **\$426.6 million** in CDBG-DR funding to support ongoing storm recovery work. The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) will oversee the City's program. **70%** must be spent on Low- and Moderate- Income communities. **0%** can be used to duplicate support from FEMA, SBA, or others.



After the City's Action Plan and financial policies are reviewed and approved by HUD, the City will **have 6 years to finalize and implement programming**. The City expects approval to come in fall 2025 and will share program implementation timelines as plans are finalized.

Chicago's Plan for Recovery



Chicago's Disaster Recovery Plan

Chicago's CDBG-DR Action Plan describes how these nine programs will address the root causes of flooding, protecting homes and communities from future storm damage.



Housing

Repair of outstanding unmet housing damage from storms to preserve livability



Infrastructure and Mitigation

Expansion and replacement of infrastructure to prevent flooding and increase drainage



Economic Revitalization

Activation of storefronts to stimulate business on commercial corridors

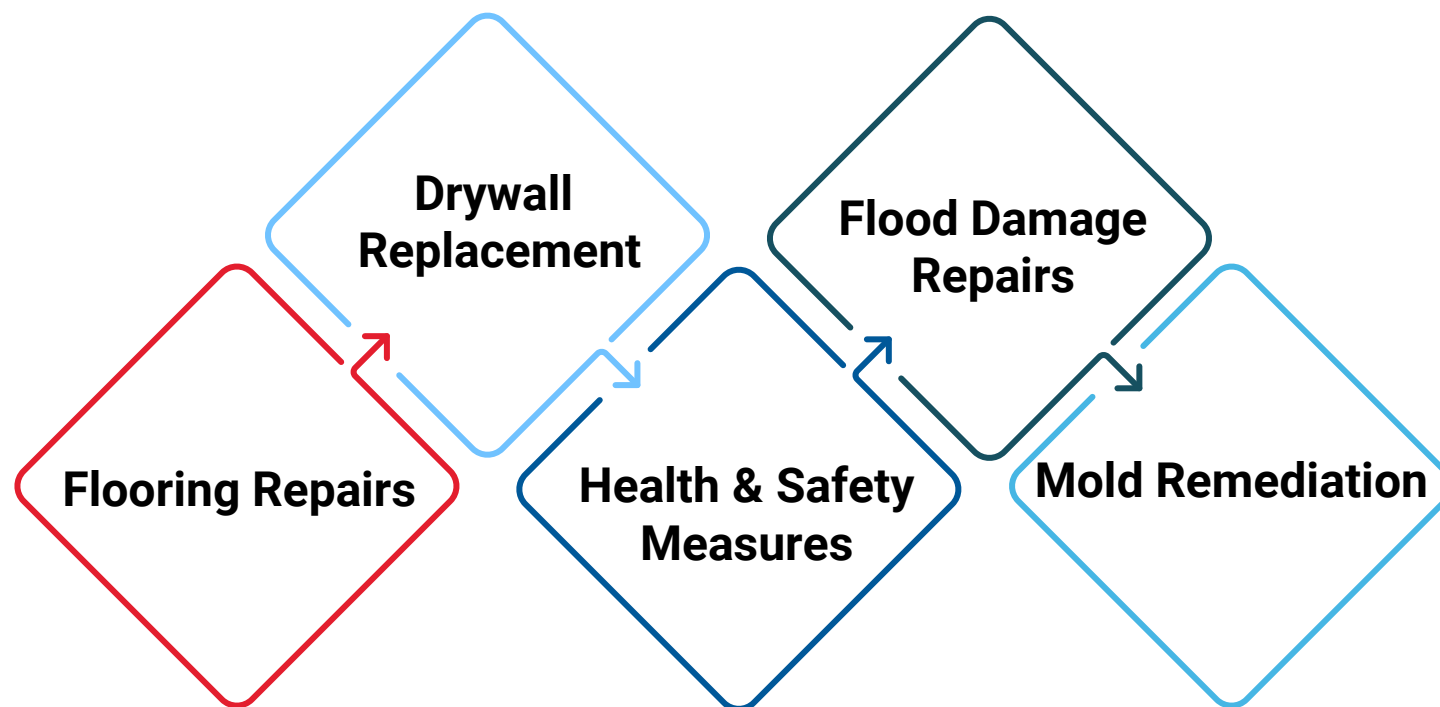
Program	Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total
Home Repair Program	-	\$45,000,000	\$45,000,000
Infrastructure and Mitigation*	\$405,277,600	\$52,013,087	\$457,290,687
Sewer Mains	\$226,341,802	\$23,068,233	\$249,410,035
Wing Storage	\$62,096,736	\$15,524,184	\$77,620,920
Grid Cleaning	\$29,735,732	-	\$29,735,732
Permeable Alleys	\$67,103,330	\$13,420,670	\$80,524,000
Permeable Plazas	\$5,000,000	-	\$5,000,000
Mitigation	\$15,000,000	-	\$15,000,000
Storefront Activation	-	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Administration	\$21,330,400	-	\$21,330,400
Total	\$426,608,000	\$102,013,087	\$528,621,087

**Final projects, locations, and allocations of infrastructure and mitigation programs are subject to further engineering and estimation. Updates will be provided via the City's disaster recovery website.*

Home Repair – Flood Recovery Program



After making a \$5M contribution out of its 2024 Budget, the City is committing an additional \$40M in **local capital funds** to this program to provide flood mitigation and prevention repairs for up to 1,600 residents with remaining damage from any of the storms in 2023 and 2024.



Lead Department:
Department of Housing

\$45,000,000
2024 Budget and Chicago
Recovery Bond Funds Allocated

Up to 1,600
homes repaired

Storefront Activation Program



The City has allocated \$5.0M in **local funding** towards the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection’s Storefront Activation Program. The program offers rent-free space and no-cost operational support to entrepreneurs, enabling them to start or expand retail operations in flood-affected areas.





CHICAGO
MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON

**SMALL BUSINESS STOREFRONT
ACTIVATION PROGRAM**

This program will revitalize commercial corridors by activating vacant storefronts, boosting local economic activity, and quality of life.



Lead Department:
Department of Business Affairs
and Consumer Protection

\$5,000,000
Chicago Recovery Bond Funds
Allocated

40-50 Storefronts
activated

Infrastructure & Mitigation Improvements



The City has identified a range of potential projects under consideration to improve stormwater infrastructure capacity and to mitigate damages from future storms. The final projects, scopes, timelines, and locations will be determined after a data-driven planning and evaluation process.



Over 233 City Blocks of Infrastructure Improvements Under Consideration to Reduce Flooding for 11,000+ Homes

Expanding New Stormwater Infrastructure

- Upgrading **104 blocks of local sewers** and evaluating adding **52 blocks of trunk sewers** to increase drainage capacity and prevent future flooding
- Installing **12 wing storage facilities** to increase overall system capacity
- Reconstructing **60 alleyways** with permeable pavements to support drainage and mitigate flooding
- Revitalizing **5-6 vacant lots** with storm resilient infrastructure

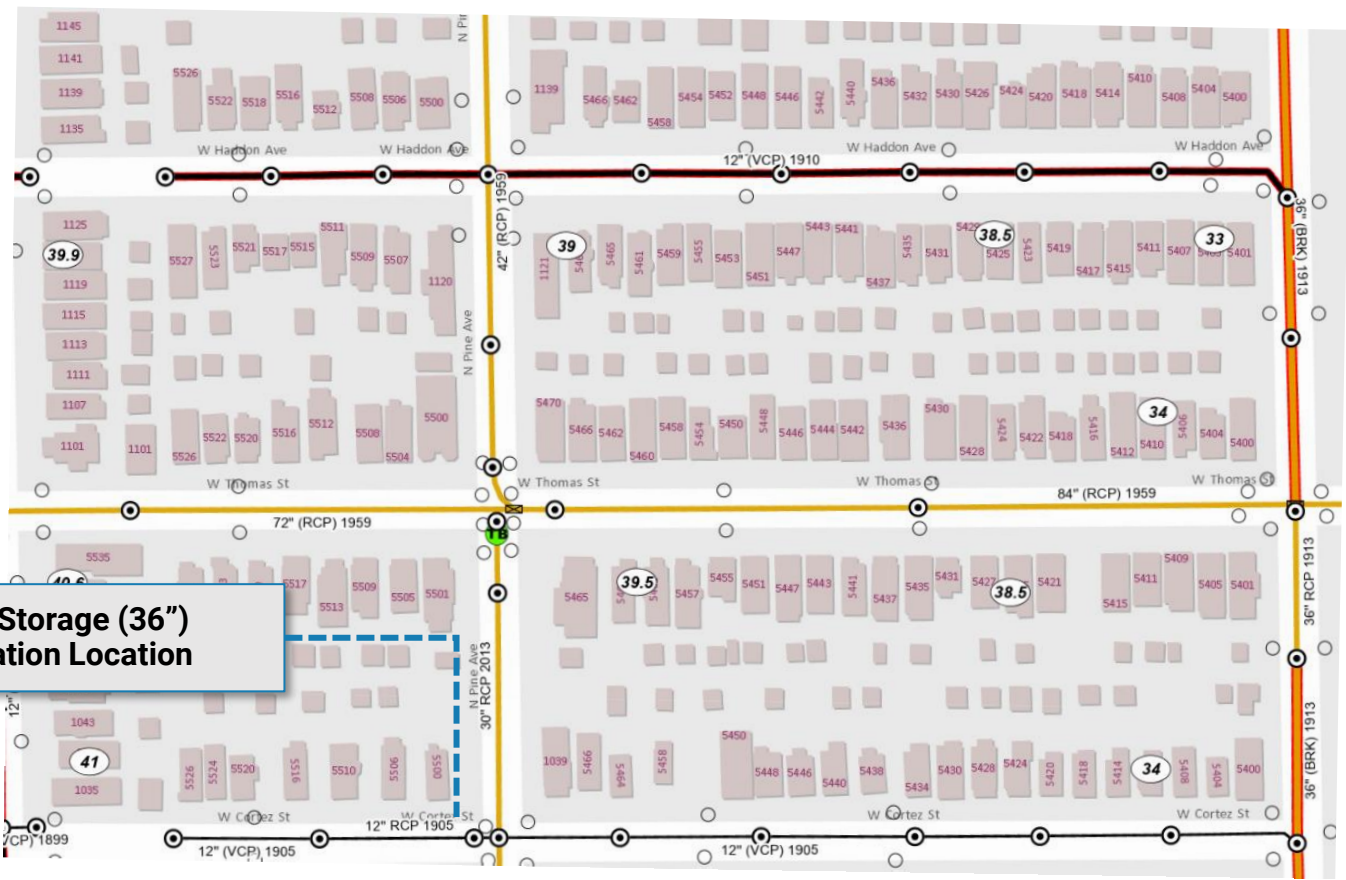
Restoring Existing Infrastructure

- Cleaning and debris removal for **2,100 blocks of sewer lines** to enhance water flow

Stormwater Infrastructure | Sewer Lines



The goal of this project under consideration is to use **CDBG-DR and local funding** to perform structural sewer and catch basin cleanings, using high water pressure to remove blockages and vacuum debris on 2100 blocks and to install new local sewer mains on 104 blocks to increase sewer capacity and improve sewer flow, leading to a decrease in flooded basements. DWM would also resurface impacted streets and replace approximately 2,500 to 3,000 lead service lines.



Lead Department:
Department of Water
Management

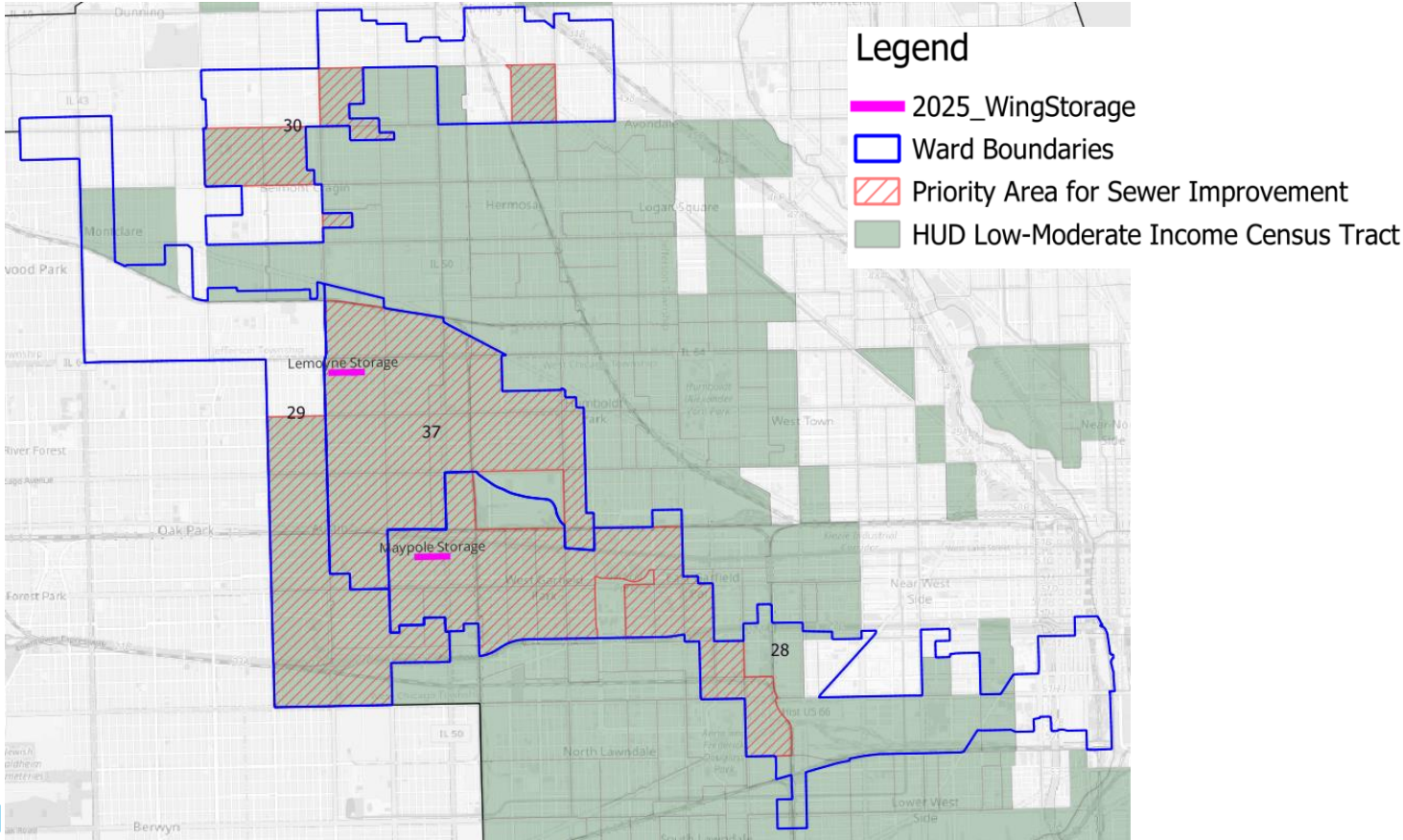
\$279,145,767
Total Funds Allocated

104 Blocks
of local sewers upgraded
2,100 Blocks
of sewers cleaned

Stormwater Infrastructure | Wing Storage



The goal of this project under consideration is to use **CDBG-DR and local funding** to install wing storage, also called combined sewer overflow tanks, on strategic, two-block stretches to provide flooding relief to the surrounding area. These underground storage projects, on side streets with lower utility presence, would temporarily hold surcharge volume, thereby significantly alleviating basement flood risk. DWM will also evaluate construction of new trunk sewer lines spanning 52 blocks, with the potential to drain the overall area to the MWRD system much quicker.



Lead Department:
Department of Water
Management

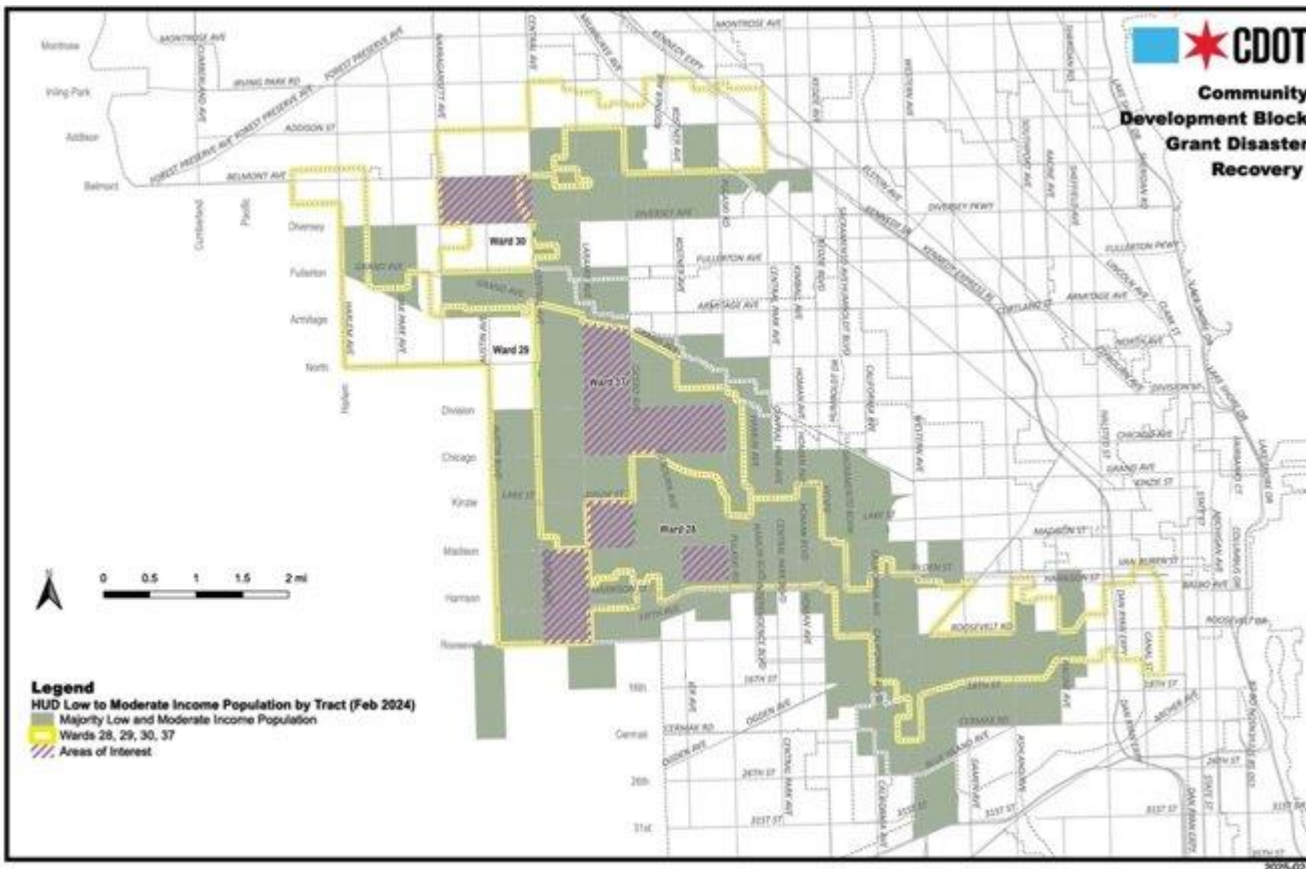
\$77,620,920
Total Funds Allocated

12 Units
of wing storage built
52 Blocks
of trunk sewers evaluated

Stormwater Infrastructure | Permeable Alleys



The goal of this project under consideration is to use **CBDG-DR and local funding** to repair 60 damaged alleys and reconstruct them using permeable pavement and upgrades to divert rainwater to the ground and away from the City's sewer and stormwater systems, leading to a decrease in flooding in basements, and on streets and alleys.



Lead Department:
Chicago Department of
Transportation

\$80,524,000
Total Funds Allocated

60 Alleys
repaired and rehabilitated

Stormwater Infrastructure | Permeable Outdoor Plazas (POP!)



The goal of this project under consideration is to use **CDBG-DR funding** to develop 5-6 Permeable Outdoor Plazas (POP!). These permeable infrastructure improvements are designed to not only help with urban flooding, but also double as community assets that provide gathering space for neighborhood residents.



Lead Department:
Department of Planning and
Development

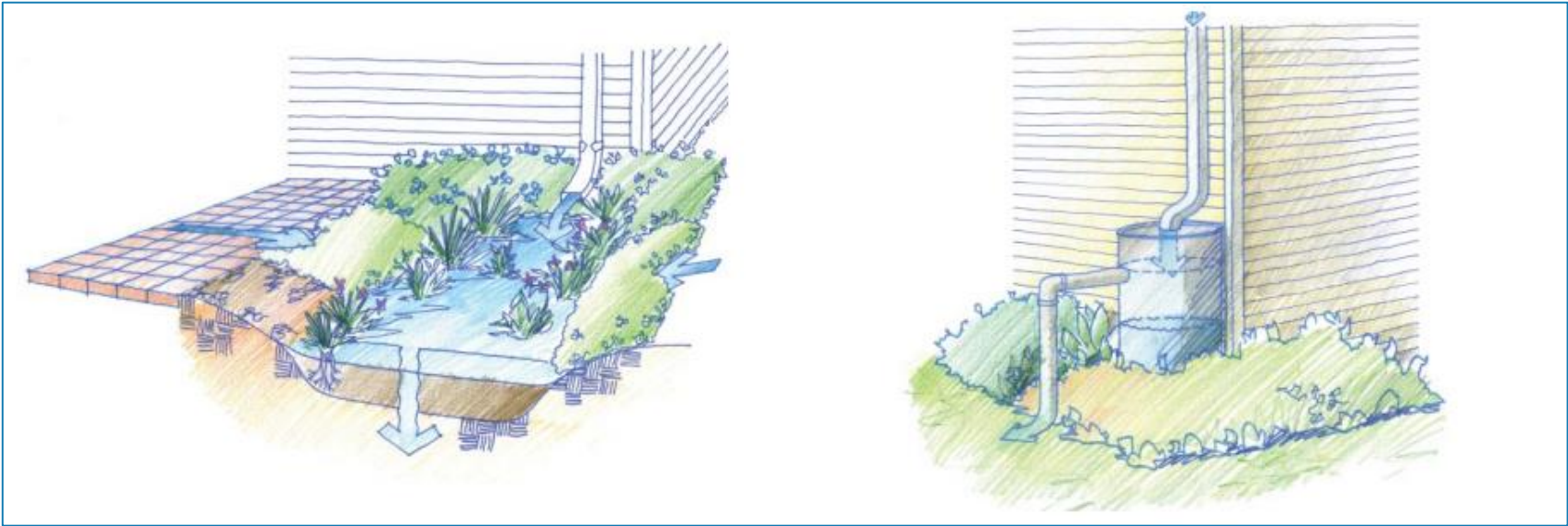
\$5,000,000
Total Funds Allocated

5-6 POP! Plazas
constructed

Stormwater Mitigation



The goal of this project under consideration is to use CDBG-DR funding to provide residents and businesses with different stormwater management resources at no cost, including but not limited to downspout disconnectors, rain barrels, and rain gardens. Program criteria is still being developed but would prioritize low- or moderate- income residents and businessowners in wards 28, 29, 30, 37.



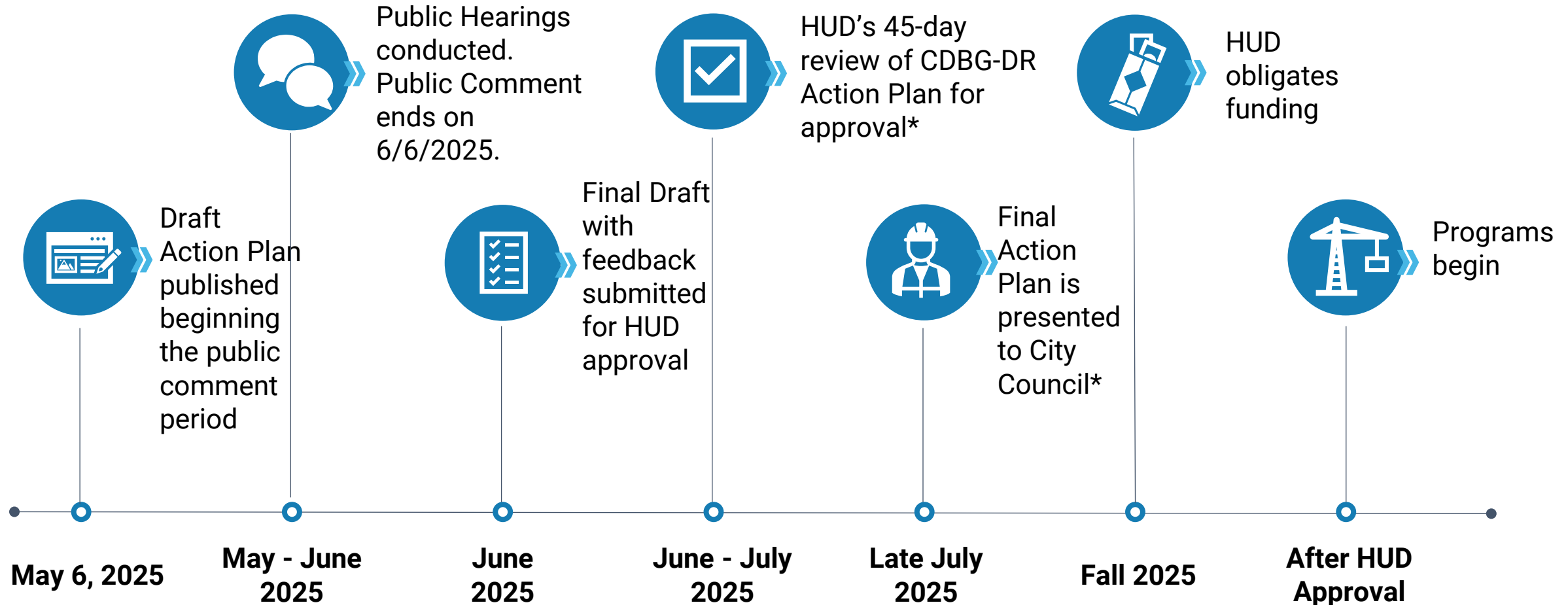
Rain Garden

Downspout Disconnector
and Rain Barrel

\$15,000,000
Total Funds Allocated

Thousands of Homes
protected

Recovery Plan Timeline & Next Steps



**Dates for plan approval and final presentation are tentative based on HUD review.*

We want to hear from you!



Online:

Fill out our survey



01



By Email:

Send feedback or
comments to
GrantSupport
@cityofchicago.org

02



By Phone:

Call us at
(312) 744-6264

03



By Mail:

*Attn: CDBG-DR Grants
Administrator
Office of Budget &
Management
121 N. LaSalle St.
Room 604
Chicago, IL 60602*

04

Read the Action Plan at [Chicago.gov/CDBGDR](https://chicago.gov/CDBGDR)

Public comments will be accepted until June 6th, 2025.

Community Q&A