



CITY OF CHICAGO

MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Jason Ervin
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Rachel Arfa
Commissioner, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

CC: Kennedy Bartley
Chief External Affairs Officer, Mayor's Office

Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-01-Personal Assistance Program

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Chairwoman Lee asked for information related to the Personal Assistance Program.

MOPD provides up to 6 hours of personal assistance weekly to 83 people. This service is available to people with disabilities up to 59 years old, with an age cap due to funding requirements. When the client turns 59, MOPD staff coordinates with the Department of Family and Support Services to transfer the care to DFSS - Senior Services for any services that the individual may qualify for under DFSS.



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CC: Kennedy Bartley
Chief External Affairs Officer, Mayor's Office

Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-02-Budget Priorities

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Chairwoman Lee asked about MOPD's top three (3) budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. MOPD's top three budget priorities are:

- 1. Hiring and Filling the Architect IV Position**
- 2. Onboarding a Disability Specialist II**
 - a. This role will provide targeted support to disabled youth.
- 3. Increasing Funding for the Home Modification Program**
 - a. This includes identifying additional county, state, and federal funding sources.



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Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-03-HomeMod FY25 Budget

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Chairwoman Lee asked for the funding level for the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities 2025 HomeMod Budget.

The FY25 HomeMod Budget is \$3,945,000 and is comprised of CDBG, Corporate, and Grants.



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Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-04-Disabled Parking

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Chairwoman Lee asked for the number of disabled parking permits denied in 2024.

MOPD reviews an appeal for any applicant only after they have received a denial letter from the Department of Finance. Since MOPD is not involved in the initial application stage, MOPD can only cite information from applicants appealing the decision. In 2024, MOPD received 535 appeals and denied 254 appeals.



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Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-05-Delegate Agencies 0135

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Lopez requested the list of all delegate agencies and how the \$200,000 cut would impact services.

1. List of Delegate Agencies
 - a. Access Living
 - b. Ada S. McKinley Community Services
 - c. ASI
 - d. Extended Home Living Services
 - e. Independent Home Living Services

2. Service Impact: Please note the reduction to the MOPD 0135 line is \$250,000 and not \$200,000. This is not a reduction in service but a transfer of a program to BACP, under 0B53 Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Fund. The program funding will be increased to \$300,000 and will be for a provider to transport power wheelchairs and other mobility devices that do not fit in an ambulance with the owner when taken to the hospital for emergency medical care and related situations.



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Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-06-HomeMod FY25 Budget

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Lopez asked for information related to the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities 2025 HomeMod Budget.

Please see response ID# 48-03 as this question was also asked by Ald. Lee.



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Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-07-ACU Compliance Review

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Lopez asked if the need for an extra investigator was hired.

MOPD would like to clarify that the FY25 budget reflects an additional Architect IV position in the Accessibility Compliance Unit, which will expand our capacity. MOPD will move forward with hiring the Architect IV in 2025.



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-08-ASL City Hall Interpretation

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Lopez inquired about bringing ASL interpretation to the City Council as well as events.

In 2024, real-time captioning was arranged for every scheduled monthly City Council meeting. Currently, ASL interpreters are available for any budget hearing or committee meeting by request to MOPD via email to access@cityofchicago.org.



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Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-09-HomeMod by Wards

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Lopez inquired about HomeMod applicants and awardees by Ward.

Please see the charts below addressing the inquiry.

Applicants by Ward

WARD 1	1	WARD 18	9	WARD 35	1
WARD 2	0	WARD 19	1	WARD 36	1
WARD 3	3	WARD 20	2	WARD 37	5

WARD 4	2	WARD 21	20	WARD 38	2
WARD 5	4	WARD 22	7	WARD 39	1
WARD 6	6	WARD 23	3	WARD 40	0
WARD 7	12	WARD 24	1	WARD 41	1
WARD 8	10	WARD 25	1	WARD 42	0
WARD 9	19	WARD 26	3	WARD 43	0
WARD 10	7	WARD 27	5	WARD 44	0
WARD 11	3	WARD 28	2	WARD 45	1
WARD 12	1	WARD 29	7	WARD 46	0
WARD 13	7	WARD 30	0	WARD 47	0
WARD 14	5	WARD 31	0	WARD 48	2
WARD 15	7	WARD 32	0	WARD 49	0
WARD 16	16	WARD 33	1	WARD 50	2
WARD 17	14	WARD 34	1		

Projects and Awardees by Ward

Project Number	Awardee ID	Type of Project	Ward
1	50e	Bathroom	3
2	6e	Door Widening	4
3	43e	Vertical Platform Lift	5
4	51e	Bathroom	5
5	3i	Bathroom	6
6	15i	Vertical Platform Lift	6
7	22i	Bathroom	6
8	10e	Vertical Platform Lift	6
9	33e	Vertical Platform Lift	6
10	18i	Vertical Platform Lift	7
11	21i	Vertical Platform Lift	7
12	5e	Vertical Platform Lift	7
13	55e	Chair Lift	7
14	58e	Chair Lift	7
15	3e	Other, AD, Small, Multi	8
16	68e	Bathroom	8
17	70e	Ramp	8
18	71e	Vertical Platform Lift	8
19	6i	Vertical Platform Lift	9
20	10i	Vertical Platform Lift	9
21	11i	Ramp	9
22	13i	Vertical Platform Lift	9
23	2e	Vertical Platform Lift	9

Project Number	Awardee ID	Type of Project	Ward
24	13e	Vertical Platform Lift	9
25	24e	Bathroom	9
26	25e	Bathroom	9
27	39e	Vertical Platform Lift	9
28	47e	Bathroom	9
29	64e	Other, AD, Small, Multi	9
30	73e	Other, AD, Small, Multi	9
31	17i	Bathroom	10
32	8e	Vertical Platform Lift	10
33	34e	Bathroom	10
34	61e	Vertical Platform Lift	10
35	52e	Bathroom	12
36	7e	Bathroom	14
37	2i	Bathroom	15
38	9i	Vertical Platform Lift	15
39	12i	Chair Lift	15
40	19e	Other, AD, Small, Multi	15
41	9e	Vertical Platform Lift	16
42	22e	Vertical Platform Lift	16
43	27e	Vertical Platform Lift	16
44	28e	Vertical Platform Lift	16
45	29e	Bathroom	16
46	45e	Bathroom	16
47	7i	Vertical Platform Lift	17
48	29i	Bathroom	17
49	15e	Vertical Platform Lift	17
50	17e	Bathroom	17
51	46e	Bathroom	17
52	53e	Vertical Platform Lift	17
53	60e	Vertical Platform Lift	17
54	4i	Vertical Platform Lift	18
55	27i	Bathroom	18
56	28i	Other, AD, Small, Multi	18
57	16e	Bathroom	18
58	32e	Vertical Platform Lift	18
59	48e	Bathroom	18
60	62e	Vertical Platform Lift	18
61	1e	Ramp	19

Project Number	Awardee ID	Type of Project	Ward
62	31e	Bathroom	20
63	16i	Vertical Platform Lift	21
64	24i	Bathroom	21
65	4e	Vertical Platform Lift	21
66	11e	Bathroom	21
67	12e	Bathroom	21
68	18e	Bathroom	21
69	20e	Vertical Platform Lift	21
70	36e	Vertical Platform Lift	21
71	40e	Vertical Platform Lift	21
72	54e	Vertical Platform Lift	21
73	56e	Vertical Platform Lift	21
74	59e	Vertical Platform Lift	21
75	66e	Other, AD, Small, Multi	21
76	14i	Chair Lift	22
77	14e	Door Widening	22
78	26e	Vertical Platform Lift	22
79	57e	Vertical Platform Lift	22
80	23i	Bathroom	23
81	67e	Bathroom	23
82	69e	Bathroom	25
83	5i	Vertical Platform Lift	26
84	49e	Bathroom	26
85	42e	Vertical Platform Lift	27
86	44e	Vertical Platform Lift	27
87	72e	Other, AD, Small, Multi	28
88	26i	Vertical Platform Lift	29
89	21e	Vertical Platform Lift	29
90	23e	Vertical Platform Lift	33
91	35e	Vertical Platform Lift	35
92	38e	Vertical Platform Lift	36
93	1i	Vertical Platform Lift	37
94	25i	Vertical Platform Lift	37
95	63e	Other, AD, Small, Multi	37
96	65e	Other, AD, Small, Multi	37
97	20i	Vertical Platform Lift	38
98	30e	Vertical Platform Lift	38
99	41e	Vertical Platform Lift	41

Project Number	Awardee ID	Type of Project	Ward
100	37e	Vertical Platform Lift	45
101	8i	Other, AD, Small, Multi	48
102	19i	Other, AD, Small, Multi	50



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CC: Kennedy Bartley
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Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-10-One Summer Chicago

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Lopez requested data on One Summer Chicago and City ID's participants with disabilities.

The Department of Family and Support Services collected participant level-information for One Summer Chicago and City IDs. MOPD is not a part of DFSS's data sharing agreement and does not have access to this data. MOPD defers to DFSS for this data.



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-11-Cash Assistance

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Lopez inquired about the demographics and ward breakdown of the Diverse Learners Cash Assistance program.

MOPD will have demographic information of participants once all monies have been disbursed. Currently, 3,875 students with disabilities out of 8,000 have been selected, and the remaining will be disbursed by the end of 2024. The breakdown by ward for students with disabilities receiving a cash grant award is below:

Ward	Aldersperson	Number of Recipients
1	La Spata, Daniel	36
2	Hopkins, Brian	10
3	Dowell, Pat	123
4	Robinson, Lamont J.	106
5	Yancy, Desmon C.	66
6	Hall, William E.	106
7	Mitchell, Gregory I.	104
8	Harris, Michelle A	98
9	Beale, Anthony	134
10	Chico, Peter	110
11	Lee, Nicole T.	58
12	Ramirez, Julia M.	84

Ward	Aldersperson	Number of Recipients
13	Quinn, Marty	87
14	Gutierrez, Jeylu B.	91
15	Lopez, Raymond A.	147
16	Coleman, Stephanie D.	118
17	Moore, David H.	130
18	Curtis, Derrick G.	89
19	O'Shea, Matthew J.	47
20	Taylor, Jeanette B.	177
21	Mosley, Ronnie L.	133
22	Rodriguez, Michael D.	78
23	Tabares, Silvana	68
24	Scott, Monique L.	156
25	Sigcho-Lopez, Byron	57
26	Fuentes, Jessica L.	102
27	Burnett, Jr., Walter	132
28	Ervin, Jason C.	107
29	Taliaferro, Chris	109
30	Cruz, Ruth	93
31	Cardona, Jr., Felix	122
32	Waguespack, Scott	16
33	Rodriguez Sanchez, Rossana	58
34	Conway, William	6
35	Ramirez-Rosa, Carlos	75
36	Villegas, Gilbert	69
37	Mitts, Emma	122
38	Sposato, Nicholas	54
39	Nugent, Samantha	43
40	Vasquez, Jr., Andre	36
41	Napolitano, Anthony V.	14
42	Reilly, Brendan	5
43	Knudsen, Timothy R.	4
44	Lawson, Bennett R.	11
45	Gardiner, James M.	53
46	Clay, Angela	38
47	Martin, Matthew J.	14
48	Manaa-Hoppenworth, Leni	21
49	Hadden, Maria E.	56
50	Silverstein, Debra L.	102
Grand Total		3,875



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-12-Signalization for the Disabled at Stops

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman La Spata asked how MOPD brings collaboration and accountability to that need for disabled Chicagoans as it relates to the signalization for disabled Chicagoans at stops.

Due to ongoing litigation, MOPD is unable to comment on this matter.



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-13-Chicago Housing Locator

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderwomen Hadden asked for the initial and maintenance costs of developing the Chicago Housing Locator tool.

The Emphasys Software for the Chicago Housing Locator tool was purchased in 2023 at the cost of \$38,830. There were no additional MOPD costs related to this effort.



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-14-Demographics

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderwoman Hadden requested demographic data by living arrangements for people with disabilities, including those who live in nursing homes.

MOPD does not track this data.



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-15-Delegate Agencies

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Vasquez asked for an example of delegate agency contracts and how they are held accountable.

Delegate Agency Oversight: MOPD staff responsible for delegate agency contracts continuously monitor the delegate agency organizations responsible for various services. MOPD Staff establish annual goals, evaluate outcomes and impact data, obtain direct feedback from clients receiving services, schedule check-ins, and conduct program audits, which include ensuring access to services for people with disabilities. Moreover, MOPD also completes annual financial audits.

An example of MOPD's oversight is our partnership with Ada S. McKinley, a new delegate agency for the Diverse Learners Cash Assistance program. MOPD meets with Ada S. McKinley weekly to discuss the program's status and receive daily progress reports—the accountant and program management also review requests for reimbursement before disbursing funds.



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-16-Language Access Coordinator

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Vasquez asked if MOPD has a Language Access Coordinator, what their functions are, and if the position is reflected in the FY25 budget.

MOPD's FY25 Budget does not include a Language Access Coordinator. Language access, however, is central to MOPD's mission. MOPD has four (4) ASL interpreters, including a bilingual ASL interpreter who interprets both English and Spanish. MOPD also has several multilingual client-facing staff available and acquires spoken language translators in requested languages when there is an anticipated need.



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-17-Language Line

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Vasquez asked for LanguageLine Solutions services by functional and sectional units in 2024.

MOPD's 2024 budget includes language access-related expenditures that pay for interpreters, translation services, communication access, real-time translation, audio description, and ASL interpreters.

In 2024, the vendor LanguageLine Solutions has submitted \$2,410.63 in invoices out of an estimated \$3,000 in translation services, which includes document translations.



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-18-HomeMod Waitlist by Ward

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderwoman Taylor requested the HomeMod Waitlist by Ward.

Below is the current waitlist for the program.

WAITING LIST by WARD					
WARD 1	0	WARD 18	39	WARD 35	6
WARD 2	0	WARD 19	12	WARD 36	11
WARD 3	7	WARD 20	9	WARD 37	21
WARD 4	6	WARD 21	55	WARD 38	6
WARD 5	8	WARD 22	5	WARD 39	2
WARD 6	31	WARD 23	8	WARD 40	3
WARD 7	27	WARD 24	21	WARD 41	3
WARD 8	29	WARD 25	5	WARD 42	1
WARD 9	66	WARD 26	8	WARD 43	1
WARD 10	23	WARD 27	6	WARD 44	0
WARD 11	8	WARD 28	13	WARD 45	4
WARD 12	3	WARD 29	22	WARD 46	2
WARD 13	6	WARD 30	7	WARD 47	1
WARD 14	6	WARD 31	8	WARD 48	0
WARD 15	24	WARD 32	3	WARD 49	0
WARD 16	30	WARD 33	2	WARD 50	7

WAITING LIST by WARD					
WARD 17	35	WARD 34	3		



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ID#: 48-19-CPS

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Taylor asked about MOPD's relationship with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and how MOPD works with them.

MOPD frequently meets with Joshua Long, CPS's Chief of the Office for Students with Disabilities, to discuss the needs of students with disabilities. According to CPS Stats and Facts data for the 2024 – 2025 school year, 16.4% of CPS students are students with disabilities. Moreover, CPS's Office for Students with Disabilities is a partner in our outreach on the Diverse Learners Cash Assistance, helping to distribute information on the program. Given the high percentage of students with disabilities, many of whom are also economically disadvantaged, the cash assistance program will provide much needed support.

MOPD also holds quarterly meetings with CPS and its leadership to discuss facilities and school improvements. MOPD's Architect IV also helps review CPS accessibility plans.

In 2024, MOPD partnered with CPS on various events, including what is listed below:

Event date	Event name
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2/28/2024	One Summer Chicago @ Skilled Trade Career Fair
2/29/2024	One Summer Chicago @ Skilled Trade Career Fair
3/1/2024	One Summer Chicago @ Skilled Trade Career Fair
5/7/2024	Mather HS Transition Fair
7/18/2024	CPS Back to School Bash
7/25/2024	CPS Back to School Bash
7/30/2024	CPS Back to School Bash
8/1/2024	CPS Back to School Bash
10/4/2024	Parent University in Bronzeville
10/11/2024	CPS Parent University: Pullman
10/18/2024	CPS Parent University: Eugene Field Elementary
11/4/2024	Northside Learning Center HS



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ID#: 48-20-Recruiting People with Disabilities

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Aldерwoman Manaa-Hoppenworth commented on the vacancies across departments and asked how we can attract and recruit people with disabilities.

MOPD worked to launch the City's first Disability Resource Group, which is devoted to bringing together employees with disabilities and allies, called Disability Forward CHI. Commissioner Arfa serves as the Executive Sponsor, and Deputy Commissioner Christina McGleam serves as the Vice Chair. This is an important way to build and foster a positive work environment to attract and retain employees with disabilities.

MOPD also partnered with DHR and the Mayor's Office in October to launch a survey to all City of Chicago employees around voluntary disclosure of a disability. We continue to collect responses. The data will help us better understand the current workforce and identify opportunities for disabled employment recruitment and retention. MOPD also provides technical assistance on reasonable accommodation requests and additional resources such as trainings and increasing awareness of best practices in the workplace.

Our MOPD Career Center works with job seekers with disabilities and has provided support on applying to City of Chicago and sister agency opportunities. Furthermore, through our Training Center, MOPD offers various trainings to support employers on ways to better support their

employees with disabilities. These trainings include Disability and Access, Accessible Meetings, and Inclusive Hiring Practices.



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Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-21-Sidewalk Accessibility

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Mena-Hoppenworth inquired how to make public sidewalks more accessible, including making them accessible year-round.

Sidewalks are managed by CDOT, which incorporates ramps in all ongoing capital projects. Residents can report issues with ADA ramps to 311 or by submitting a Sidewalk Inspection Request via CHI311.

For existing sidewalks, the following steps ensure that sidewalks are accessible:

- **Ensure Curb Cuts and Ramps**
 - Install curb cuts with detectable tactile surfaces at every intersection and mid-block crossings, allowing smoother transitions between sidewalks and street levels.
 - Ensure ramps have gradual slopes and are wide enough for easy wheelchair access.
- **Widen Sidewalks**

- Provide ample width (ideally at least 5 feet wide) to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, and pedestrians with visual impairments.
- Avoid narrow pathways and create passing spaces along narrower sidewalks.
- **Add Tactile Pavement Markings**
 - Place textured markings or raised tactile guides along the sidewalk, especially at crosswalks and intersections, for people with visual impairments.
 - Consider audible cues at key locations, like intersections, for enhanced navigation.
- **Implement Clear Signage**
 - Install clear, easy-to-read signs with braille at pedestrian crossings and intersections to assist those with visual impairments.
 - Use symbols and clear font for legibility, and position signs at accessible heights.
- **Remove Obstacles and Clutter**
 - Keep sidewalks free of obstructions like poles, signs, garbage bins, and temporary barriers to maintain clear paths.
 - Designate sidewalk areas for benches, bike racks, and other public furniture that won't obstruct walking paths.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.



CITY OF CHICAGO

MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Jason Ervin
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Rachel Arfa
Commissioner, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

CC: Kennedy Bartley
Chief External Affairs Officer, Mayor's Office

Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-22-Constituent Calls

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderwoman Mitts requested information about the number of calls to MOPD and the top priority calls we receive.

Calls to MOPD are tracked through 311 Service Requests, the Disability Resource Unit, and the Accessible Compliance Unit – Housing Staff. Bellow are the number of calls MOPD receives from each of these. MOPD aims to prioritize all calls that come into our office.

Disability Resource Unit

- 1,552 calls, of which the top reasons for calling are request for in-home services, housing, and financial assistance.

Accessible Compliance Unit

- 858 housing calls.

311 Service Requests

Accessible Home Modifications	198
Benefit Access Assistance – Disabilities	89
Housing Information – Disabilities	60

In-Home Services - Disabilities	85
Disabilities	42
Utility/ Energy Assistance - Disabilities	42
Total	516



CITY OF CHICAGO

MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Jason Ervin
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

From: Rachel Arfa
Commissioner, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

CC: Kennedy Bartley
Chief External Affairs Officer, Mayor's Office

Date: November 20, 2024

Re: Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

ID#: 48-23-Personal Assistance and Caregivers

The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on November 7, 2024, to discuss the proposed 2025 budget.

Alderman Lopez asked about the coordination MOPD does to assist family members in providing caretaking assistance to other family members.

This is a common request for MOPD, and we have worked with our delegate agency ASI dba ASI Home Care to make this an available option to those that are eligible. The program, Preferred Workers, allows clients to choose a family member to be their caregiver. Participants undergo standard employment screenings during the process of becoming their family member's caretaker.

For the program, ASI offers weekly trainings, which includes classroom and in-service instruction. These trainings are offered in both English and Spanish.