

CITY OF CHICAGO

2025 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT
INTERIM REPORT
PHASE 1

2025



Great Cities Institute

GREAT CITIES INSTITUTE

PREPARED BY
UIC GREAT CITIES INSTITUTE FOR THE CHICAGO
OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT,
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF POLICY, AND
OFFICE OF EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE

2025 BUDGET

2025 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT INTERIM REPORT PHASE 1

JUNE 2024

Acknowledgements:

The information and findings in this report are directly informed by residents and members of City advisory groups and task forces. They generously shared their time, knowledge, and expertise to inform the City budget. This report would not exist without their input or participation in the City of Chicago's budget engagement. We are grateful for the contributions of stakeholders and residents who participated.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Chicago's 2025 budget will invest billions of dollars in crucial City programs and services. To better inform investment decisions, the City conducts community engagement around the City budget. To increase resident engagement in the budget-making process, the City of Chicago Office of Budget and Management (OBM), the Mayor's Office of Community Engagement, Mayor's Office of Policy, and the Office of Equity and Racial Justice (OERJ) partnered with the University of Illinois Chicago's Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI) at the Great Cities Institute to codesign and conduct engagement around the City's 2025 budget.

2025 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT DESIGN

2025 budget engagement has been designed to occur earlier than ever and over three phases. This interim report documents the process and findings from Phase 1, which took place from mid-April through mid-May 2024. Phase 2 takes place from mid-May through mid-July 2024 and Phase 3 is scheduled for the end of July 2024. Budget engagement for 2025 is led by four overarching goals:

1. To have engaged and meaningful conversations between City leaders and residents on community needs and priority programs and services by topic area to inform the 2025 budget.
2. To gather feedback from residents on programs and services by topic area to inform budget investments.
3. To provide transparency in the data collection and analysis of feedback and input for the 2025 budget.
4. To produce a report that documents the process and includes findings from external engagement.

Four guiding frameworks, Participation, Equity, Education, and Transparency and Accountability, have also been used to support and guide the design of the 2025 budget engagement.

PHASE 1 DESIGN & ACTIVITIES

Phase 1 activities were designed to engage more residents, stakeholder groups, and organizations earlier than in previous budget engagement processes. Residents and stakeholder groups could engage in Phase 1 in three ways. Residents could provide a budget idea or comment via the virtual public comment link posted on the City of Chicago microsite. Members of City stakeholder groups were invited to attend virtual meetings to learn about the city budgeting process and 2025 budget engagement and to share ideas and feedback. City stakeholder groups were also invited to share their input through the Phase 1 Budget Engagement online survey (Phase 1 survey).

The Phase 1 survey asked participants to rank programs and services according to what was most important to their community in five different budget topic areas, including Affordable Housing and Services for People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness, Community Safety, Community & Neighborhood Development and Arts & Culture, Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, and Public Health and Mental Health. City leaders selected programs and services for the Phase 1 survey that they wanted additional community feedback on to assist in 2025 budget decision-making and/or program implementation design. The survey list was not a comprehensive or prioritized list for each topic area.

PHASE 1 PARTICIPATION & DATA

Over 155 members from over 103 community organizations, City advisory groups, and City task forces attended a virtual meeting. 193 respondents completed the online survey, and 66 ideas and comments were posted via the open virtual public comment link. Respondents were from over 50 different zip codes across the City of Chicago.

Data was downloaded, cleaned, combined when appropriate, and analyzed. Data from the Phase 1 survey was analyzed by percentage of ranking for each program or service and by average weighted ranking. The data collected from the survey is a convenience or opportunity sample. The data presented from Phase 1 respondents is not intended to be representative of the City of Chicago's general public and should not be interpreted as such. It reports on the respondents who took the survey, who were largely comprised of members of City advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups.

PHASE 1 RESULT HIGHLIGHTS

This report presents demographic data on who participated in Phase 1 and detailed results on the rankings of programs and services by topic area. Public comment data is also presented where themes from residents were found. Highlights of the results for each topic are as follows:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SERVICES TO PEOPLE AT RISK OF OR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

This topic area included six programs and services that were ranked by respondents. Programs providing services to people at risk of or experiencing

homelessness were clear priorities. The number one ranked program in this topic area was Homeless Services & Outreach, which, through a broad collaboration, provides outreach across the city and connection to shelter/housing, social and health services, including substance use and mental health. The Outreach/AME/Rehousing Comprehensive Process, a program that supports rapidly moving participants from a shelter or the street to their own rental unit with supportive services, ranked second. The Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund, which assists in providing affordable rental housing, ranked third.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

This topic area included six programs and services that were ranked by respondents. The number-one program ranked in this topic area was the Safety & Justice Youth Council, a program designed to teach youth participants about various safety, justice, and police accountability topics. Respondent rankings demonstrate less of a clear consensus on the priority of programs or services for programs ranked second, third, and fourth. Programs and services include the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) People's Academy (second) a program for residents interested in learning about civilian police oversight; PlayStreets (third) a program that encourages community residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles through the creation of safe, fun, and accessible spaces; and the Civilianization of the Police Force (fourth) an initiative to hire civilians who offer skill sets that are not currently available within the Police Department.

COMMUNITY/ NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND ARTS AND CULTURE

This topic area included seven programs and services that were ranked by respondents. Support, training, education, and equitable access to City contracts and resources for small businesses, City contractors, and entrepreneurs were priorities in this topic. Respondents ranked Encouraging Diversity, Growth, and Equity/Active Compliance Program (EDGE/ACP) as the most important to their community. EDGE/ACP includes two programs, the EDGE program increases equitable access to City contracts and the ACP program provides education to entrepreneurs and small business owners on regulatory requirements and the municipal code. Chicago Small Business Expos / Business Education Webinars were ranked second most important. Comparing responses for Arts and Cultural programs that are ranked third and fourth, there is a slight difference between Neighborhood Activation for Festivals and Cultural Grants in terms of their overall rankings.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This topic area included eight programs and services that were ranked by respondents. The number one ranked program overall, Lead Service Line Replacement, was a clear priority. The Quality of Life Program, a program that cleans alleyways, and trims overgrown trees and bushes primarily on the South and West sides, was ranked second overall and was also clearly prioritized by respondents. The third and fourth-ranked programs, Tree Planting (third) and Materials Diversion – Recycling and Composting (fourth) were closely ranked with small differences in ranking between the two.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

This topic area included five programs and services that were ranked by respondents. Mental Health Clinics are a clear priority, with a majority (59%) of respondents ranking it as the most important to their community. Respondent rankings demonstrate less of a clear consensus on the priority of programs or services for programs ranked second and third, including the Vaccine for Preventable Diseases and the Food Protection Division programs. Vaccine for Preventable Diseases (second) is an immunization program that works to decrease the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases by increasing immunization coverage levels for children, adolescents and adults. The Food Protection Division (third) conducts inspections of and promotes public health at these establishments and works to ensure they operate in a way that meets health codes.

BUDGET BACKGROUND

The City of Chicago's Office of Budget and Management (OBM), Office of Equity and Racial Justice (OERJ), the Mayor's Office of Community Engagement, and the Mayor's Office of Policy partnered with the University of Illinois Chicago's Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI) at the Great Cities Institute to codesign and conduct community engagement around the City's 2025 budget.

2025 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT

2025 budget engagement has been designed to occur earlier than it has ever previously occurred and over three phases. This interim report documents the process and findings from Phase 1 which took place from mid-April through mid-May 2024. Phase 2 budget engagement activities take place from mid-May 2024 through July 2024. Phase 3 budget engagement activities take place at the end of July 2024. To learn more about Phases 2 and 3 of 2025 budget engagement, please visit the [City of Chicago 2025 public budget engagement microsite](#).

2025 budget engagement design was informed by participant feedback from 2024 budget engagement¹ that asked for budget engagement to involve more stakeholders, including civic groups, community organizations, and institutions; improve knowledge of and engagement around city programs and services; develop co-creation models; and increase transparency.

- To have engaged and meaningful conversations between City leaders and residents on community needs and priority programs and services by topic area to inform the 2025 budget.
- To gather feedback from residents on programs and services by topic area to inform budget investments.
- To provide transparency in the data collection and analysis of feedback and input for the 2025 budget.
- To produce a report that documents the process and includes findings from external engagement.

Four guiding frameworks have been used to support and guide the design of the 2025 budget engagement:

1. Participation:

- Includes participation in designing some aspects of the 2025 Public Budget Engagement from a wide variety of stakeholders and residents.
- Utilizes existing City of Chicago engagement groups to build upon existing efforts, strengthen existing relationships, and increase the number of organizations and individuals engaged in the process and better incorporate the experience and expertise they bring.
- Uses multiple participatory design elements including iterative design, ground-truthing opportunities, deliberation, community co-creation, and feedback loops.

2. Equity:

- Takes an assets-based approach by working with the advisory/task/engagement groups and residents with expertise and experience on individuals and families most impacted in Chicago neighborhoods and their own lived experiences.
- Includes prioritized programs, services, and projects that have 2025 budget implications from the Racial Equity Action Plans.

3. Education:

- Provides public education at every phase and in a publicly accessible virtual format.

¹ See [2024 Budget Engagement Report](#) for more detail

- Provides information, resources, and opportunities to have focused and prioritized conversations so feedback can be more meaningful and useful to budget decision-making.
- Provides shorter and more accessible descriptions of programs and services to ensure participants can participate meaningfully.

4. Transparency and Accountability:

- Includes feedback loops such as reporting back to participants engaged earlier on in the process to build trust and transparency.
- Shares additional information on other engagement opportunities with departments so participants know where else they can participate and share feedback.
- Shares the list of organizations and/or individuals that participated in Phase 1 and Phase 2 to build trust and promote education on how ongoing community engagement informs, involves, and collaborates with the City on the development of programs and policies.
- Shares an Interim report and the design of public engagement in advance to promote trust and set clear expectations.
- Shares the Final Report to fully document the process and continue to build trust.

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Phase 1 engagement activities were designed to engage more residents, stakeholder groups, institutions, and organizations earlier in the process than in previous budget engagement processes. There were four main purposes for the engagement activities:

- Provide education on the City of Chicago budget, budgeting process, and community engagement process for the budget.
- Gather program and service priorities from the community by topic area to inform City Department budget decision-making.
- Provide data to inform which programs and services will be included in the topic discussions and the design of the public budget engagement series conducted in the summer.
- Use the expertise and experience of existing City of Chicago community and civic engagement groups, advisory groups, and task forces.

There were three ways residents, stakeholder groups, institutions, and organizations could engage:

1. Provide a budget idea or comment: Any resident could provide any idea or comment on the budget via the open virtual public comment link posted on the City of Chicago microsite.
2. Attend a virtual meeting: Members of city task forces, advisory groups, and engagement groups were invited to attend virtual meetings

to learn about the city budgeting process and 2025 budget engagement, to share ideas through virtual open comment, and to participate in the Phase 1 budget engagement online survey.

3. Participate in the Phase 1 Budget Engagement Online Survey: Participate in an online survey that asked participants to rank programs and services in five different budget topic areas, including Affordable Housing and Services for People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness, Community Safety, Community & Neighborhood Development and Arts & Culture, Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, and Public Health and Mental Health (See the below section on Data Collection and Analysis for more detail on the survey).

2025 budget engagement includes three phases. This interim report documents the process and findings from Phase 1. To learn more about the plans for Phases 2 and 3 of the 2025 budget engagement, please visit [City of Chicago 2025 public budget engagement microsite](#).

OUTREACH FOR PHASE 1 OF 2025 BUDGET PROCESS

To encourage participation in Phase 1 budget engagement activities, the City of Chicago conducted outreach across City advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups. Invitations to participate were sent out via email from the Mayor's Office of Community Engagement as well as from City Departments to the advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups through which ongoing community engagement occurs. The

City also launched the 2025 budget microsite, which included information about the 2025 budget engagement goals, guiding frameworks, information about each phase, a video on the city budget and engagement process, and open virtual public comment.

Virtual Meetings

Four virtual meetings were held in April and May. The meetings included showing a brief video on the City budget and budgeting process and conducting a presentation on 2025 budget engagement and the Phase 1 survey. Participants were given the opportunity to provide feedback and have open questions and answers on the process. Participants were invited to take the survey, share an idea or comment through open virtual public comment, and share their feedback with the larger group. Over 155 people participated in the virtual meetings.

Virtual Meeting Dates

April 22nd from 2:00pm – 3:30pm
April 23rd from 10:30am - 12:00pm
April 30th from 3:00pm – 5:30pm
May 2nd from 6:00pm – 7:30pm

PHASE 1: BUDGET ENGAGEMENT PROCESS DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

UICNI was responsible for the research design of the 2025 budget engagement process. The team designed a mixed-methods research methodology to be able to analyze both quantitative data, like survey responses, and qualitative data, like public comments.

Data collection took place throughout engagement using a qualitative and quantitative mixed-methods approach. During engagement activities, UICNI collected data via:

- Open virtual public comment
- Phase 1 Budget Engagement Online Survey

The Phase 1 Budget Engagement Online Survey (Phase 1 survey) was designed to ask participants about their priorities as related to listed programs and services by topic area. They were asked to rank the most important programs and services for their community in each of five topic areas:

- Affordable Housing and Services to People at Risk or Experiencing Homelessness
- Community Safety
- Environmental Justice/Infrastructure
- Neighborhood & Community Development and Arts & Culture
- Public Health Service and Mental Health

To develop the Phase 1 survey, the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) first developed a list of programs and services offered by City Departments by topic area, and funding source. Programs and services funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were then removed from the list. These programs and services are already prioritized and have funding allocated for a designated time and through a designated federal funding source. The 2025 City budget predominantly comprises the City's

Corporate fund and some grant and future bond funds. Programs and services that are funded through these sources were left on the list.

City Departments and Offices within the Mayor's Office were asked to identify and select three to eight programs and services to prioritize for community feedback. City leaders intentionally selected programs and services for the Phase 1 survey that they needed or wanted additional community feedback on to assist in budget decision-making and/or program implementation design. The Phase 1 survey list was not comprehensive of programs or services funded in the 2024 budget or in consideration for the 2025 budget.

The Phase 1 survey was created in English, Spanish and Polish. Links to the survey were sent out via email to members of City advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups. The Phase 1 survey was open from April 17, 2024 through May 10, 2024. Open virtual public comment was published on the City of Chicago's 2025 budget microsite on April 15, 2024 and will remain open through the duration of 2025 budget engagement. Links to the open virtual public comment were also sent out via email.

193 participants completed the online survey and there were 66 ideas and comments posted via the open virtual public comment link. Some participants may have participated in the Phase 1 survey and posted a public comment. Some participants may have only participated in the Phase 1 survey, some may have only posted a public comment, and some may have posted more than one public comment. Participation in both the Phase 1 survey and the

open virtual comments are anonymous to encourage inclusion and higher rates of participation.

Responses to all questions were voluntary with the exception of asking participants for their zip code. For questions on programs and services, all participants could provide feedback on all five topic areas or complete only the topic areas of most importance or interest to them. Topic areas were randomized for online participants to eliminate bias. For topic area questions and demographic questions, some people responded only to the demographic questions, others chose only certain topic areas, and some did not respond to the topic area questions at all.

Data from the open virtual public comments were downloaded, cleaned, and categorized by topic area then coded using an inductive coding methodology and analyzed for themes. Given the low number of comments, there were few themes once disaggregated by topic area. All Phase 1 public comments will be stored and later combined with Phase 2 and Phase 3 public comments for analysis in the final 2025 budget engagement report. Data from the Phase 1 survey was downloaded into spreadsheets, combined, and cleaned. Data was analyzed by percentage of ranking for each program or service and by average weighted ranking.

The sections that follow include UICNI's findings and insights from Phase 1 of the 2025 budget engagement process. It is important to recognize the various limitations of these findings, including time constraints, a small sample size, and a lack of randomized sampling. The data collected from the survey is a convenience or opportunity sample. The

data presented from Phase 1 respondents is not intended to be representative of the City of Chicago's general public and should not be interpreted as such. It reports on the respondents who took the survey who were largely comprised of members of City advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups. Additionally, within the sample of respondents, they may have varying degrees of familiarity with the City's budget and budgeting process, as well as existing City programs, services, and initiatives, which may affect the feedback they provide. Despite any limitations, UICNI's findings and insights do represent the opinions and perceptions of those Chicago residents who are engaged with the City through existing stakeholder groups and can help inform decision-making for the 2025 budget, particularly for the City Departments.

PEOPLE ENGAGED

In total, 155 participants attended a virtual meeting from over 103 organizations, City task forces and City advisory groups. 193 respondents completed the online survey and there were 66 ideas and comments posted on the open virtual public comment link. Responses to all questions were voluntary; participants chose which questions to respond to.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND RESPONSES

Existing city groups were asked to provide demographic data including race/ethnicity, estimated household income, age, neighborhood and zip code, whether they or a household member served or had served in the US Armed Forces, and participant role/occupation (e.g., resident, small business owner) via the Phase 1 survey.

The data presented from Phase 1 respondents is not intended to be representative of the City of Chicago's general public. It reports on the respondents who took the survey, those who largely are members of City advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups. Interpreting it as a representation of the general public is not an accurate comparison, as such the data is presented on its own rather than compared to City of Chicago demographics.

Overall, the data paints a picture of the survey respondents who participated. Many of them are representatives from nonprofits (53%), followed by community organizers or activists (28%), with a smaller group that indicated that they are small business owners (8.9%). The majority also live in the City of Chicago (68%) on the North side, followed

by clusters on the West and South sides. As such, respondents tended to identify as white (45%), followed by those who identified as Hispanic or Latino (24%) and African American or Black (18%). Most respondents reported being between the ages of 25 to 54 (73%) and indicated having moderate to high estimated household income. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2023)¹, a similar demographic profile existed nationally for nonprofit employees in 2022, including higher rates of employees who identify as white (69%) and lower rates of employees who identify as African American or Black (12%) or Hispanic or Latino (10%). The majority of national nonprofit employees also ranged in age between 25 to 54 (64%) and reported moderate incomes.

The following zip code map includes all respondents: Phase 1 survey respondents and open virtual public comments. The following demographic charts include only data from the Phase 1 survey respondents.

¹ Claire McAnaw Gallagher, "For-Profit, Nonprofit, and Government Sector Jobs in 2022," US Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2023, <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2023/for-profit-nonprofit-and-government-sector-jobs-in-2022/home.htm>.

PEOPLE

CIVIC GROUPS

The table below provides the list of 103 organizations that had members who participated in a virtual meeting.

TABLE 1: LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAD MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN PHASE 1

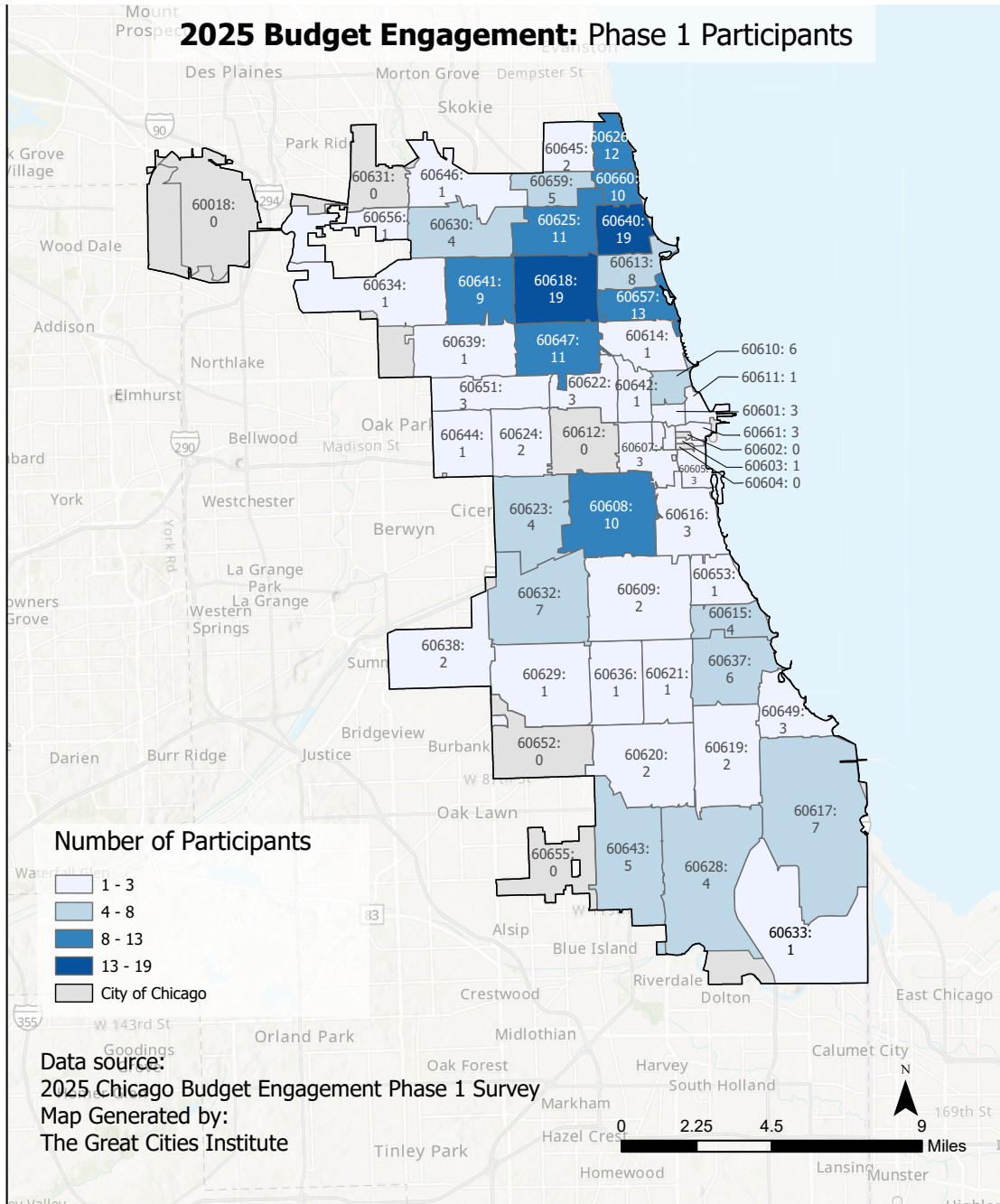
AAPI Engagement Council	Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community (CBCAC)	New Arrivals Mutual Aid
Active Transportation Alliance	Communities United	North Branch Works
AeroStar Avion Institute	Community Organizing & Family Issues (COFI)	Olive Branch Mission
African American Engagement Council	Cornerstone Community Outreach	People's Unity Platform Coalition
African Caribbean Engagement Council	ED Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce	PODER Immigrant Integration Center
After School Matters	Education and Child Development, Ward 20	Police District 011 Council
Alliance of the Southeast	Emergency Shelter, Franciscan Outreach	Polish American Association
American Indian Health Service of Chicago	Enlace Chicago	Polish American Chamber of Commerce
Andersonville Chamber of Commerce	Equity and Transformation (EAT)	Polish American Engagement Council
Arab American Business and Professional Association	Garfield Ridge Satellite Senior Center	Portage Park Chamber of Commerce
Black Contractors United	Grassroots Collaborative	Program Innovation at Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC)	Greater Northwest Chicago Development Corporation (GNCDC)	Project SYNCERE
Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC)	Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce	Rainbow Daycare Center
Center for Disability & Elder Law	Greater Southwest Development Corporation	Research Institute (SAAPRI)
Center for Neighborhood Technology	Growing Home	Resident Association of Greater Englewood
Chatham Business Association SSA 51	Healthcare Alternative Systems	Rogers Park Business Alliance
CHHRGE	Hope Center Foundation	Rohingya Culture Center
Chicago Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs	Illinois Higher Education Tech Coalition	Roseland Special Service Area (SSA71)
Chicago Aids Foundation	Illinois Venezuelan Alliance	RUSH University Medical Center
Chicago Casino Advisory Committee	Institute on Disability and Human Development	SEIU 73
Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) - 33rd Ward	Jewish Council on Urban Affairs	South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI)
Chicago Digital Equity Council	Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce	South East Chicago Commission. Special Services Area #61 - Hyde Park
Chicago Environmental Protection & Energy CMTE	Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce	Southwest Suburban Cook County American Job Center (SERCO)
Chicago Food Policy Action Council	Local Industrial Retention Initiative	Spanish Coalition for Housing (SCH)
Chicago Park District	Lost Boyz Inc organization	Sprague Memorial Institute
Chicago Westside NAACP	Matthew House -Chicago	Tabor Church
Chicago With You Task Force	Mayor's African American Engagement Council	The Brown House Experience Nonprofit organization
Chicago Women in Trades	MENA (Middle Eastern North African) Engagement Council	The Puerto Rican Cultural Center
Chinese American Service League	Metropolitan Planning Council	United African Organization
Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of Chicago	Mt. Greenwood Community and Business Association	Urban Alliance
City of Chicago Equity Advisory Council	National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Chicago	Warsaw sister cities - World Business Chicago
City of Chicago LGBTQ+ Advisory Council	National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)	West Lakeview SSA 27
City of Chicago New Americans Advisory Council	Native American Engagement Council	West Loop Community Organization.
City of Chicago Veterans Advisory Council	New American's Office Advisory Council	ZAM's Hope Community Resource Center
City of Chicago Womens Advisory Council		

Source: 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Virtual Meeting Participant List. Compiled and tabulated by the City of Chicago Mayor's Office of Community Engagement.

ZIP CODE

For zip codes, 229 zip codes were provided in the Chicago City limits including 167 via the Phase 1 survey and 62 via open virtual public comment. Respondents provided 50 unique zip codes. Those indicated most frequently were on the North Side (60640, 60618, and 60625), West Side (60608 and 60647) followed by the South Side (60637 and 60617) and the Southwest Side (60632).

MAP 1: ZIP CODE FOR PHASE 1 SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND POSTS TO THE OPEN VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT.



Source: 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey and Open Virtual Public Comment, 229 total question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute

PEOPLE

RACE/ETHNICITY

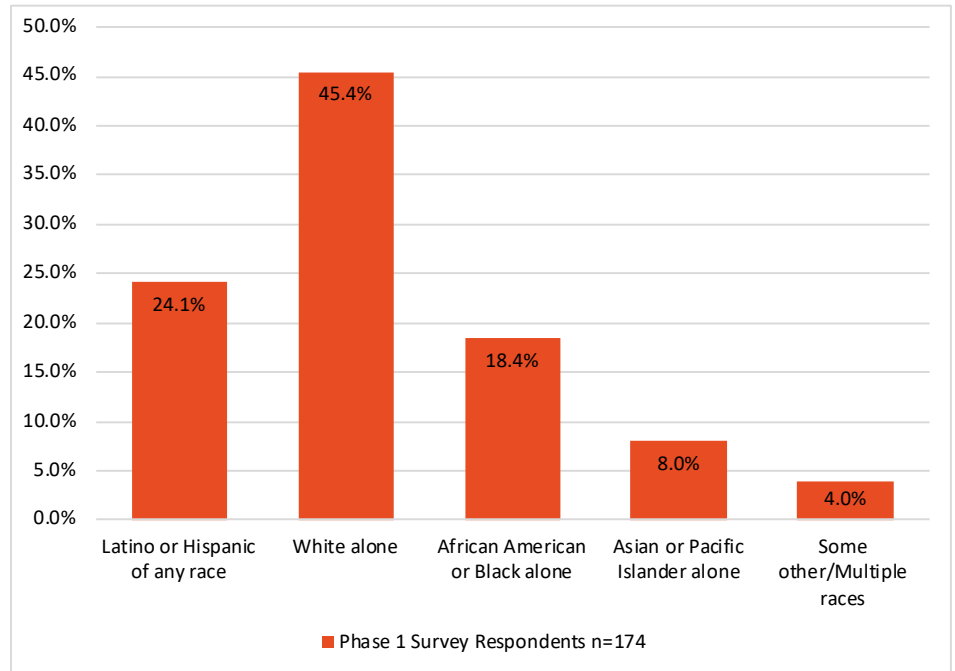
The question on race/ethnicity provided five options, and respondents could select all options they identified with. Demographic data on racial/ethnic breakdown of respondents was analyzed.

- 45% of Phase 1 survey respondents identified as White alone.
- 24% of Phase 1 survey respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race.
- 18% of Phase 1 survey respondents identified as African American or Black alone.
- 8% of Phase 1 survey respondents identified as Asian or Pacific Islander alone and 4% identified as some other or multiple races.

AGE

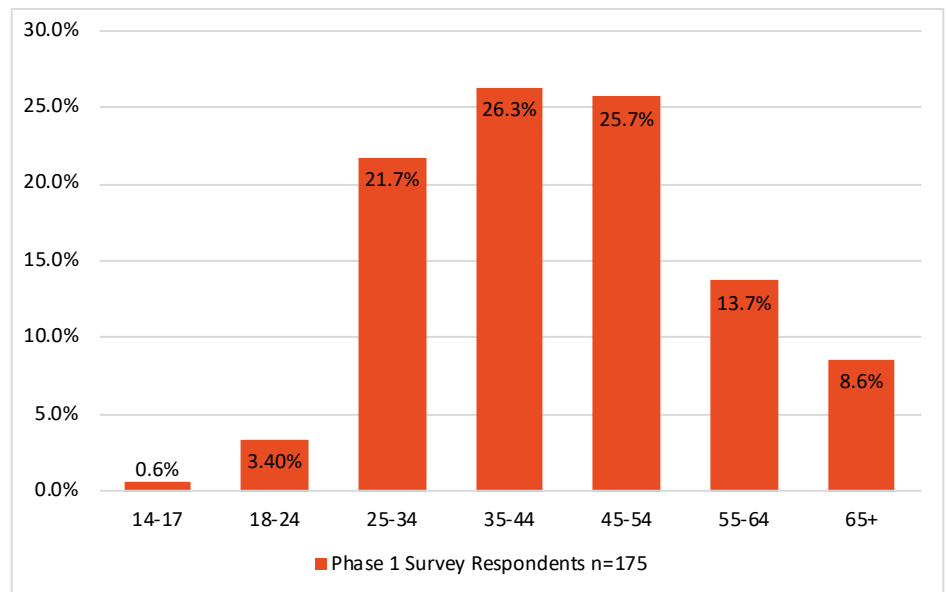
- Phase 1 survey respondents reported a relatively even distribution of across the following age cohorts: 25-34 years old, 21.7%; 35-44 years old, 26.3%; and 45-54 years old, 25.7%.
- Only 4% of respondents were 24 years old or younger.

FIG. 1. RACE/ETHNICITY OF PHASE 1 SURVEY RESPONDENTS



Source: 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey, 174 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

FIG. 2. AGE OF PHASE 1 SURVEY RESPONDENTS

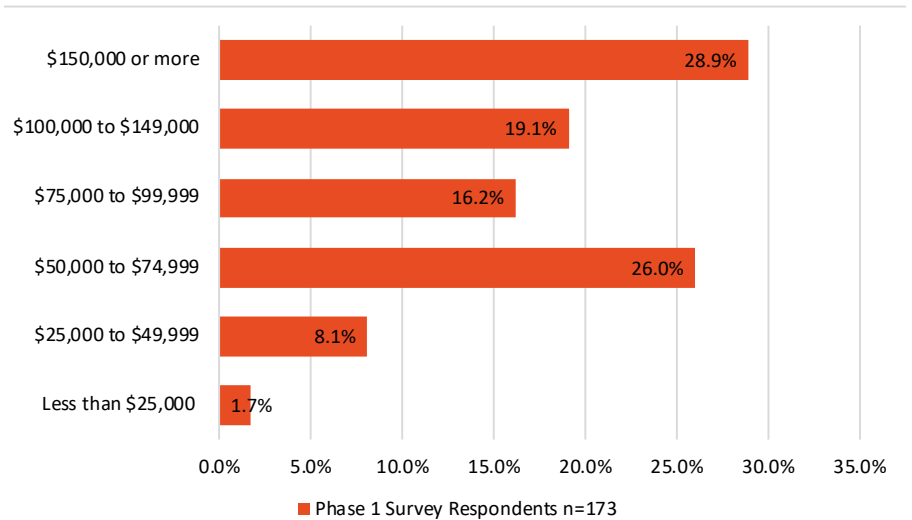


Source: 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey, 175 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- Two income categories, \$50,000 to \$74,999 (26%) and \$150,000 or more (28.9%), were reported more frequently than other categories by respondents.
- Less than 10% of respondents had estimated household incomes of \$49,999 or less (9.7%)

FIG. 3. HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF PHASE 1 SURVEY RESPONDENTS

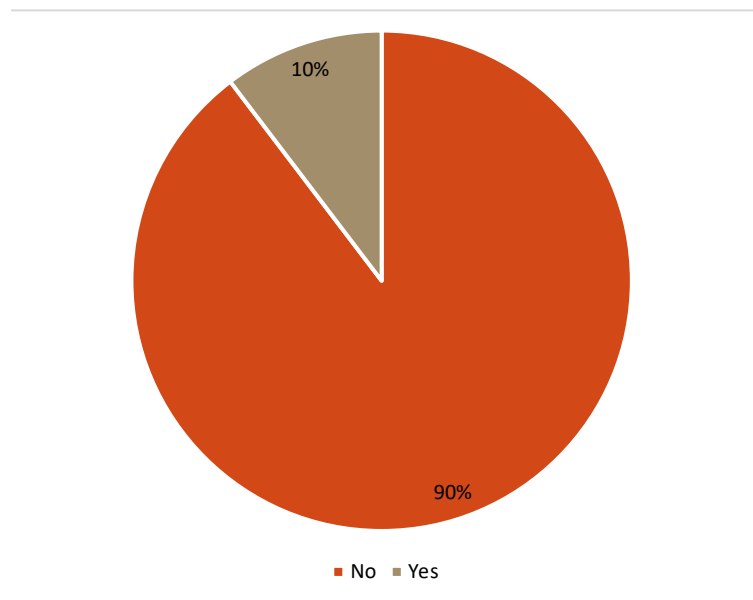


Source: 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey, 173 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

ACTIVE DUTY OR VETERAN STATUS

- 10% of Phase 1 survey respondents reported having served or having a family member serve in the US Armed Forces.

FIG. 4. SERVICE IN ARMED FORCES BY PHASE 1 SURVEY RESPONDENT OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER

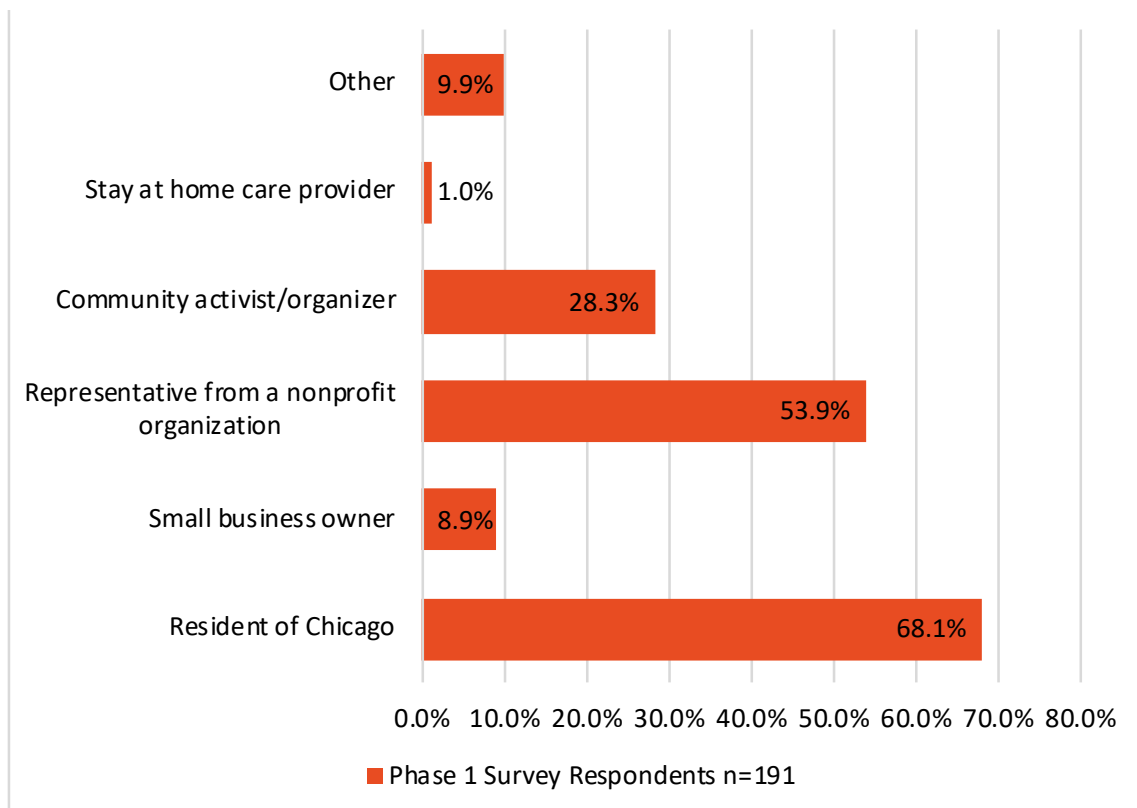


Source: 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey, 174 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

RESIDENCY AND OCCUPATION TYPE

- The majority (68%) of respondents indicated that they were residents of Chicago and a representative from a nonprofit organization.
- Nearly one-third of respondents identified as community activists/organizers (28.3%).
- 8.9% of respondents reported being small business owners.

FIG. 5. RESIDENCY AND OCCUPATION TYPE OF PHASE 1 SURVEY RESPONDENTS



Source: 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Online Survey, 191 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

This section includes an analysis of the Phase 1 survey and the open virtual public comments. It presents detailed topic area results for Phase 1 of 2025 Budget Engagement.

TOPIC AREA RESULTS

This section includes an analysis of the Phase 1 survey and the open virtual public comment. City advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups were asked to rank priority programs and services according to what was most important to their community in five different budget topic areas including Affordable Housing and Services for People Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness, Community Safety, Community & Neighborhood Development and Arts & Culture, Environmental Justice and Infrastructure, and Public Health and Mental Health. Open virtual public comment was available to all residents across the City of Chicago, participants were asked to share any comment or idea for the 2025 budget.

Results by each topic area include analysis of the Phase 1 survey and the open virtual comments by topic area. In total, there were 193 Phase 1 survey responses and there were 66 public comments posted virtually. Survey

results for each topic area include a list of the overall average weighted ranking of the program. Figures 6-10 provide the percentage of ranking for each program and service followed by an analysis with more context for the overall ranking, including where there may be clear priority or ranking or where consensus on ranking is less clear.

Public comments were cleaned, categorized by topic area, and analyzed for themes of more than a single idea. Themes were found and are included below for one topic area, Environmental Justice and Infrastructure. All public comments collected during Phase 1 of 2025 budget engagement will be combined and analyzed in the final budget engagement report along with other comments collected during Phase 2 and Phase 3 of budget engagement (For more information, visit the [City of Chicago 2025 budget engagement microsite](#)).

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SERVICES TO PEOPLE AT RISK OF OR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

This topic area included six programs and services that were selected by City departments, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Mayor's Office for additional community feedback. Members of advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups were asked to review the list of programs and services and their descriptions and rank them based on which were most important to their community, with the number one being the most important.

The number one ranked program in this topic area was Homeless Services & Outreach, which was a clear

priority by respondents, with the Outreach/AME/Rehousing Comprehensive Process ranked second. The Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund ranked third, and slightly more respondents ranked it as more important for their community than the Missing Middle Infill Strategy program, which ranked fourth. 54% of respondents indicated that the Green Social Housing program was the sixth most important for their community, potentially due to a need for more knowledge or awareness of the program.

RESULTS

Overall Ranking of Programs and Services

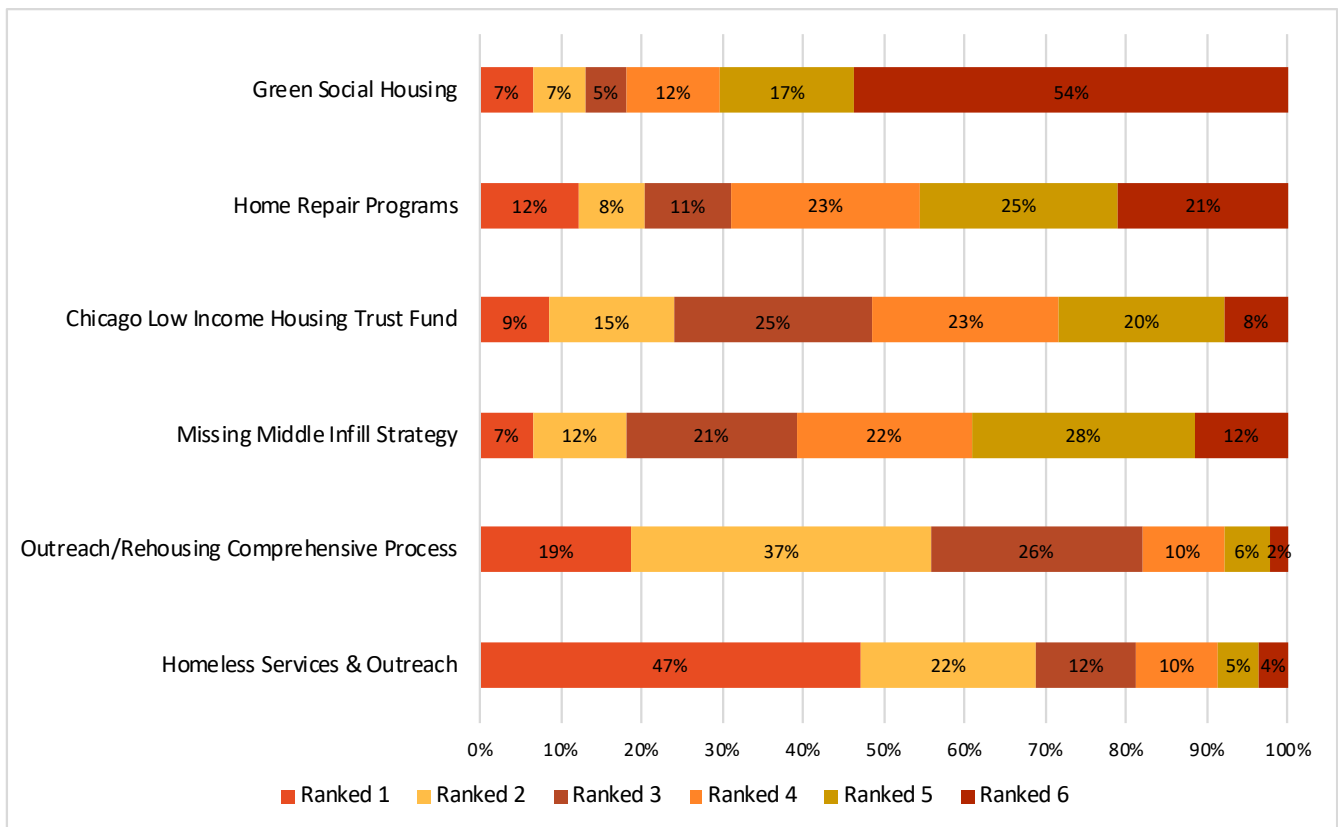
Below is the overall ranking of programs and services including the descriptions. Given the nature of the survey question, all programs and services are considered important to the respondents' community. The purpose of the ranking is to determine how the respondents prioritize programs and services.

1. **Homeless Services & Outreach:** The Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) and 11 partner agencies that are funded by the City work together to address unsheltered homelessness through targeted encampment outreach across the city and connection to shelter/housing, as well as social and health services, including substance use and mental health.
2. **Outreach/AME/Rehousing Comprehensive Process:** Rapid Rehousing is a national best practice model for ending homelessness that supports households in rapidly moving from a shelter or the street to their own rental unit with supportive services. Participants are connected to housing through Accelerated Moving Events held at shelters or nearby encampments, where participants go through multiple steps of the housing process at once.
3. **Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund:** The Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund (CLIHTF) provides rental subsidy payments to property owners directly to be used to cover a tenant's rent, in whole or part. Qualified tenants must be at or below 30% of the area median income ("AMI") at the time of initial enrollment and must continue to qualify based on periodic eligibility reviews thereafter.
4. **Missing Middle Infill Strategy:** Missing Middle focuses resources to streamline and fund the production of housing from single-family homes up to six flats that support families, owner-occupied rental properties, and inter-generational housing - the backbone of Chicago neighborhoods.
5. **Home Repair Programs:** Two programs, the Home Repair Program and the Small Accessible Repairs for Seniors ("Senior Repairs") Program. The Home Repair Program provides direct funding to repair roofs, porches, mold damage, accessibility issues, and heating systems for owner-occupied homes. Households must be at or below 80% AMI to be eligible. The Senior Repairs program supports Chicago homeowners over the age of 60 with aging in place by providing minor in-home repairs that increase home accessibility, safety, and security.
6. **Green Social Housing:** A program being considered for the FY25 budget that would develop publicly owned, mixed-income green housing.

Level of Importance/Ranking for Each Program or Service

- Homeless Services & Outreach is a clear priority with 47% of respondents ranking it as the most important and 22% ranking it as the second most important program for their communities.
- 19% of respondents indicated that the Outreach/Rehousing Comprehensive Process program was the most important and 37% reported it as the second most important program for their communities.
- The Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund (CLIHT Fund) was ranked slightly higher than the Missing Middle Infill Strategy by respondents across first through fourth rankings in terms of importance to their community. However, more respondents ranked Missing Middle Infill Strategy as the fifth and sixth most important to their community than the CLIHT program.
- 54% of respondents ranked the Green Social Housing Program as the sixth most important to their community, with 29% of respondents ranking it fourth or fifth in the level of importance for their community.

FIG. 6. PHASE 1 SURVEY RESULTS. AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SERVICES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS: PERCENTAGE OF RANKING LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE BY PROGRAM OR SERVICE



Source 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey, 138 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

This topic area included six programs and services that were selected by City departments, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Mayor's Office for additional community feedback. Members of advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups were asked to review the list of programs and services and their descriptions and rank them based on which were most important to their community, with the number one being the most important.

The number-one program ranked in this topic area was the Safety & Justice Youth Council. For COPA People's Academy, PlayStreets, and the Civilianization of the Police Force, programs ranked second, third, and fourth, respondent rankings demonstrate less of a clear consensus on the prioritization of programs or services rankings.

Overall Ranking of Programs and Services

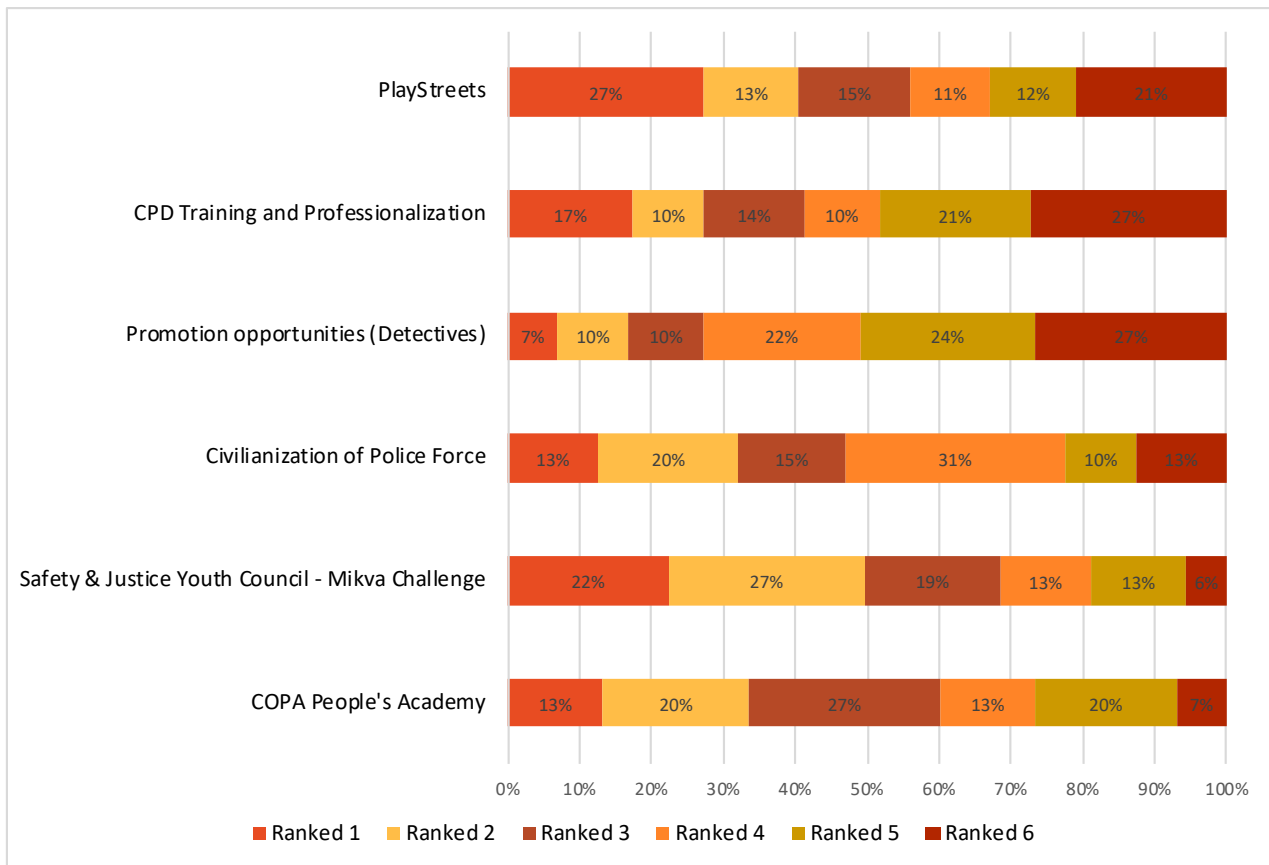
Below is the overall ranking of programs and services, including their descriptions. Given the nature of the survey question, all programs and services are considered important to the respondents' community. The ranking aims to determine how the respondents prioritize programs and services.

1. **Safety & Justice Youth Council - Mikva Challenge:** COPA partners with Mikva Challenge's Safety & Justice Youth Council to teach participants about a wide variety of safety, justice, and police accountability topics, including 4th Amendment rights. The youth on the council have received COPA training, and host Leadership Cafes open to young people and the general public in general to discuss safety, justice and police accountability.
2. **COPA People's Academy:** This six-week condensed version of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability's (COPA) Training Academy is for residents of the City of Chicago interested in learning about Civilian Police Oversight, Investigative and Legal Concepts as well as the role of COPA's Policy, Research and Analyses Division (PRAD). COPA People's Academy is offered in the Spring and Fall. There is also a separate youth edition offered in the summer.
3. **PlayStreets:** PlayStreets encourages community residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles through the creation of safe, fun, and accessible spaces that promote physical wellness and healthy communities, provide additional health services, and strengthen community relationships. CDPH funds PlayStreets delegate agencies that will implement programs on the South and West sides of Chicago.
4. **Civilianization of Police Force:** Through this initiative, the Police Department hires civilians who offer skill sets that are not currently available within the Department, supplement sworn officers in specific units that have a mixture of sworn and civilian staff, and free up sworn members of the department to return to field duties. allows the Department to hire civilians to gain new skill sets that are not currently available.
5. **CPD Training and Professionalization:** CPD is investing in training our sworn officers at the highest level and bringing in civilian training officers to bring new perspectives to the Department. This professionalization of existing operations paired with greater emphasis on community needs and civilian perspectives will result in well-rounded officers able to better serve the people of Chicago.
6. **Promotion opportunities (Detectives):** Strong investigations are a cornerstone of effective policing. Providing timely, thorough, and legal investigations is critical to solving crime and providing victims justice. Promoting additional detectives along with the creation of homicide teams increases the Department's capacity to conduct strong investigations and solve more crimes.

Level of Importance/Ranking for Each Program or Service

- 22% of respondents reported that the Safety & Justice Youth Council was the most important to their community, and 27% indicated that it was the second most important to their community.
- The respondent rankings demonstrate less of a clear consensus on programs or services and show a fair amount of variance, demonstrating that programs and services range in terms of how respondents prioritize their importance for their community for COPA People’s Academy, PlayStreets, and Civilianization of Police Force.
- For both CPD Training and Professionalization and Promotion Opportunities (Detectives), 27% of respondents reported that the program was the sixth most important to their community. However, the CPD Training and Professionalization program also had 17% of respondents indicated that was the most important to their community.

FIG. 7. PHASE 1 SURVEY RESULTS. COMMUNITY SAFETY: PERCENTAGE OF RANKING LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE BY PROGRAM OR SERVICE



Source 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey, 144 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

COMMUNITY/ NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND ARTS AND CULTURE

This topic area included seven programs and services that were selected by City departments, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Mayor's Office for additional community feedback. Members of advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups were asked to review the list of programs and services and their descriptions and rank them based on which were most important to their community, with the number one being the most important.

Respondents ranked Encouraging Diversity, Growth, and Equity/Active Compliance Program

(EDGE/ACP) as the most important to their community, and Chicago Small Business Expos / Business Education Webinars were ranked second most important. Comparing responses for Arts and Cultural programs that are ranked third and fourth, there is a slight difference between Neighborhood Activation for Festivals and Cultural Grants in terms of their overall rankings. 46% of respondents indicated that the Public Banking Pilot Program was the seventh most important for their community, potentially due to a need for more knowledge or awareness of how the programs impact communities on the ground.

Overall Ranking of Programs and Services

Below is the overall ranking of programs and services including the descriptions. Given the nature of the survey question, all programs and services are considered important to the respondents' community. The purpose of the ranking is to determine how the respondents prioritize programs and services.

1. Encouraging Diversity, Growth, and Equity (EDGE) / Active Compliance Program (ACP): The EDGE supplier development program provides targeted support to small business owners who want to become City contractors or those who are subcontractors and want to become prime contractors. The program focuses on driving equitable access to contracts and supports the growth and success of Chicago's thriving and diverse business community. The ACP provides education to entrepreneurs and small business owners on regulatory requirements and best practices to ensure compliance with the municipal code. Through in-person visits by BACP investigators, ACP provides guidance on licensing, permits, tax obligations, and other legal matters essential for operating a business in Chicago.
2. Chicago Small Business Expos / Business Education Webinars: The Small Business Expo Series brings free business resources to communities for new and existing entrepreneurs looking to start or grow their businesses in-person throughout the city and online. These expos offer resources such as business licensing consultants, tax clinics, financial advisors, workshops, professional headshots, and networking. Business Education Webinars are free every Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning. Topics include business licensing, operations, financial resources, marketing, and more. Programs are free and open to the public and taught by industry professionals, not-for-profit agencies, and government agencies.
3. Neighborhood Activations for Festivals: The Neighborhood Activations for Festivals Program funds neighborhood pop-up events at the same time as Chicago's annual festivals (Blues, Jazz, House, Gospel, Subelo, Summer Dance, World Music Festival, Taste) that take place over the summer season, though not all programs currently have funded community activations.
4. CULTURAL GRANTS - Chicago Presents Program / Individual Artists Program / Neighborhood Access Program / CityArts Program: The City's Cultural Grants Programs provide grants ranging from \$500 to \$75,000 to support individual artists as well as non-profit and for-profit organizations offering free arts programs in Chicago neighborhoods, community-based arts and cultural activities, as well general operating grants for arts and cultural organizations of all sizes.
5. ChiBlockBuilder (Vacant Lots): ChiBlockBuilder streamlines the purchase of City-owned properties across the South and West Sides and increases transparency about the land sales process. The ChiBlockBuilder website features an interactive online map to provide potential

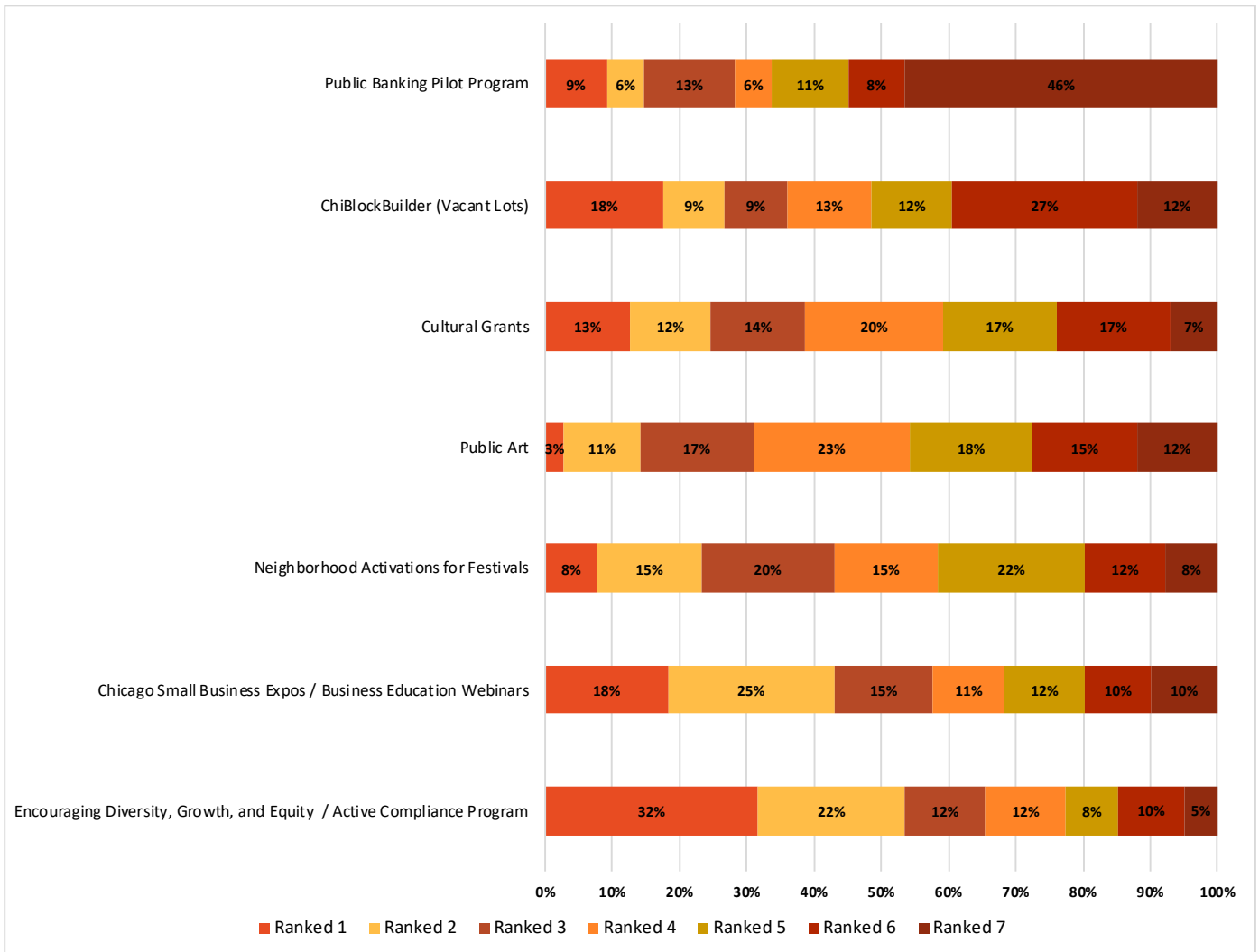
buyers with important information about City-owned vacant land such as environmental clearances, zoning, square footage, and market value.

6. **Public Art:** The Public Art Program manages new public art projects throughout all Chicago neighborhoods as well as the conservation of our existing Public Art Collection.
7. **Public Banking Pilot Program:** The Public Banking initiative was developed by the Mayor's Office Policy team as part of our public options platform to promote City-owned public options across multiple policy domains. The Public Banking initiative seeks to co-locate a bank in a City-owned space within a community that lacks access to traditional bank branches and has a disproportionate population of unbanked and under-banked residents, most likely on either Chicago's South or West sides.

Level of Importance/Ranking for Each Program or Service

- 32% of respondents ranked the Encouraging Diversity, Growth, and Equity/Active Compliance Program (EDGE/ACP) as the most important to their community, and 22% ranked it as the second most important to their community, indicating a prioritization of this program.
- Comparing responses for Arts and Cultural programs, there is a slight difference between Neighborhood Activation for Festivals and Cultural Grants in terms of their overall rankings and prioritization by respondents.
- 46% of respondents indicated that the Public Banking Pilot Program was the seventh most important for their community, potentially due to a need for more knowledge or awareness of the program or how the program impacts communities on the ground.

FIG. 8. PHASE 1 SURVEY RESULTS. COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND ARTS & CULTURE: PERCENTAGE OF RANKING LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE BY PROGRAM OR SERVICE



Source 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey, 142 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This topic area included eight programs and services that were selected by City departments, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Mayor's Office for additional community feedback. Members of advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups were asked to review the list of programs and services and their descriptions and rank them based on which were most important to their community, with the number one being the most important.

The number one ranked program overall, Lead Service Line Replacement, was a clear priority with 34% of respondents ranking it as the most important to their community and 31% ranking it as the second most important to their community. The Quality of

Life Program was ranked second overall and was also clearly prioritized by respondents. Third and fourth ranked programs, Tree Planting and Materials Diversion – Recycling and Composting, were closely ranked with small differences in ranking between the two. Protected bike lanes were ranked sixth overall, however, public comments from residents included budget ideas for increased investments in protected bike lanes or a protected bike grid with the overwhelming theme from residents asking for investments in safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists. Respondents indicated that the DIVVY Expansion program was eighth most important for their community.

Overall Ranking of Programs and Services

Below is the overall ranking of programs and services including the descriptions. Given the nature of the survey question, all programs and services are considered important to the respondents' community. The purpose of the ranking is to determine how the respondents prioritize programs and services.

1. **Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR):** The Department of Water Management currently offers six Lead Services Line Replacement (LSLR) programs: Block-level LSLR alongside water main replacement, Block-level LSLR alongside sewer main replacement, the Leaks and Breaks Program, the Equity Program, the Daycares LSLR Program, and the Homeowner Initiated Program.
2. **Quality of Life:** The Quality-of-Life program seeks to elevate living conditions on the South and West sides by dedicating additional crews to clean alleyways and trim overgrown trees and bushes. Concentrating on alleys enhances the aesthetic and safety of neighborhoods, and affirms the Department's commitment to creating inclusive, thriving neighborhoods.
3. **Tree Planting:** Tree-planting efforts are strategically focused on underserved neighborhoods and communities of color, where the urban tree canopy has historically been lacking. By prioritizing these areas, we are actively addressing the disparities in access to green spaces and the associated environmental and health benefits. The Bureau of Forestry has active engagement with communities for input into decision-making about tree planting locations.
4. **Materials Diversion – Recycling and Composting:** The Department of Streets and Sanitation analyzed data which indicated that certain neighborhoods had lower rates of recycling participation compared to others, potentially indicating disparities in access to recycling services or awareness about recycling practices. To address this, we are improving recycling education and outreach efforts in underserved communities to promote sustainable waste management practices such as citywide composting.
5. **Climate Action Plan Implementation:** The Department of Environment is developing and implementing a comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP) targeting an emissions goal. The CAP has sub-pillars with numerous strategies and action items, to be implemented by many City departments. The CAP ensures coordinated implementation and steady progress.
6. **Protected Bike Lines - Chicago Cycling Strategy:** The Chicago Cycling Strategy is a "low stress network" strategy that includes protected bike lanes (PBLs), as well as neighborhood greenways (traffic calmed streets) and off-street trails make up a connected low stress network. CDOT continues to develop capital projects with the goal of bringing 70% of Chicagoans within one half of a mile of the low-stress bikeway network as laid out in the Cycling Strategy 150-Mile Network Vision.

Additionally, the increase in tree cover has positive environmental impacts, including mitigating the urban heat island effect and improving air quality.

7. Flooding | Downspout Disconnection Pilot: With the increase of 100-year floods occurring yearly, DWM will promote downspout disconnection as a means to prevent some basement flooding during heavy rains.
8. DIVVY Expansion: Divvy is Chicago's bike sharing program. System expansions bring stations to neighborhoods that currently do not have any and adds additional stations to the neighborhoods that currently have lower station density.

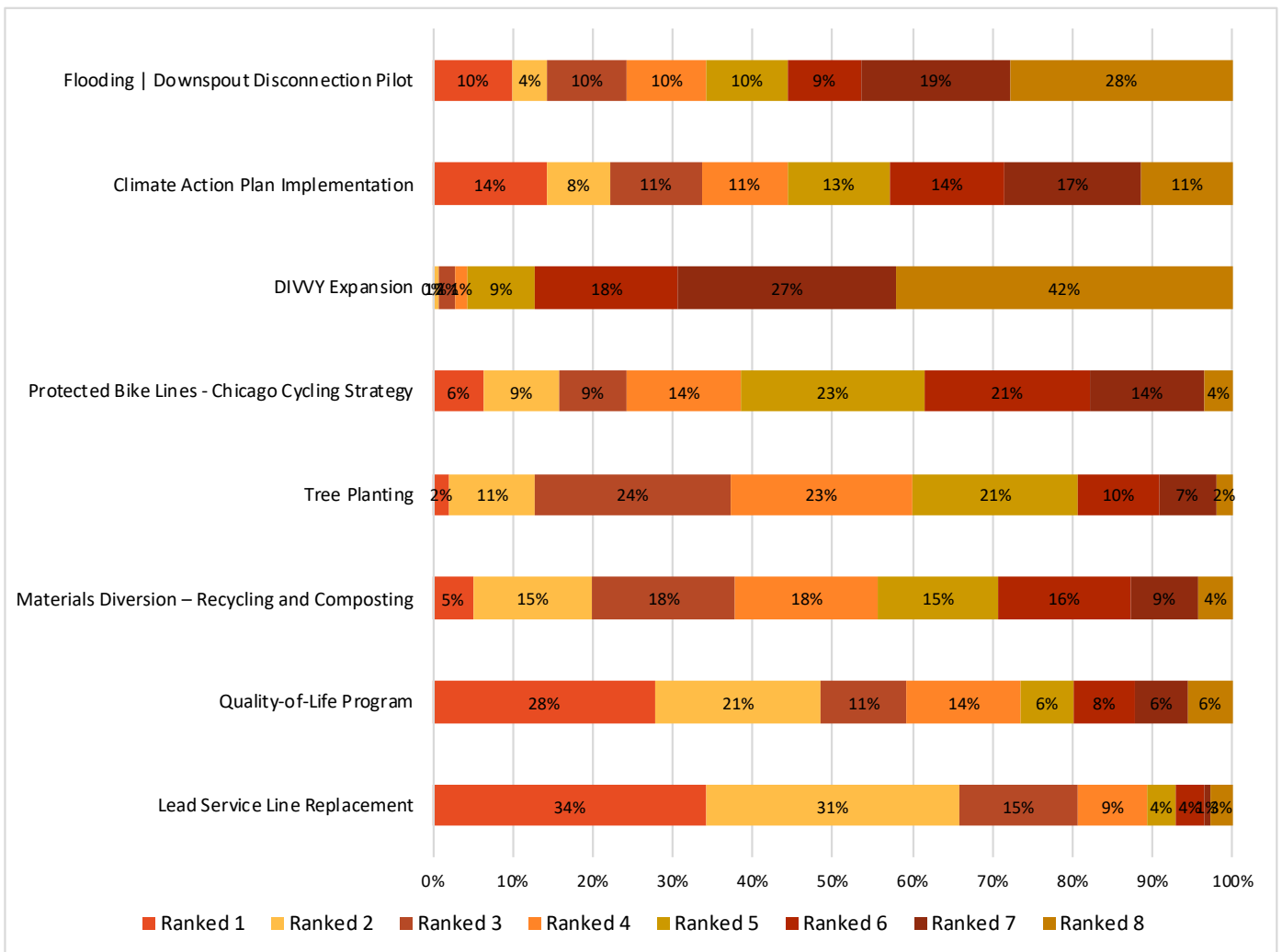
Themes from Open Virtual Public Comment

Most public comments in this topic area included budget ideas for increased investments in protected bike lanes or a protected bike grid, and some requested dedicated bus lanes. Several comments in this topic area asked for investments in safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists.

Level of Importance/Ranking for Each Program or Service

- Lead Service Line Replacement and the Quality-of-Life Program are priorities of respondents based on the ranking selections.
- 34% of respondents ranked Lead Service Line Replacement as the most important to their community, and 31% ranked it as the second most important to their community; respondents ranked the Quality-of-Life Program at 28% and 21%, respectively.
- 42% of respondents indicated that the DIVVY Expansion program was the eighth most important for their community.

FIG. 9. PHASE 1 SURVEY RESULTS. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE: PERCENTAGE OF RANKING LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE BY PROGRAM OR SERVICE



Source 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey, 140 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

This topic area included five programs and services that were selected by City departments, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Mayor's Office for additional community feedback. Members of advisory groups, task forces, and engagement groups were asked to review the list of programs and services and their descriptions and rank them based on which were most important to their community, with the number one being the most important.

Mental Health Clinics are a clear priority, with 59% of respondents ranking it as the most important to their community. For the Vaccine for Preventable Diseases and the Food Protection Division programs, the overall ranking between second and third most important to their community was close. 57% of respondents indicated that the Health Vending Machine & Harm Reduction was the fifth most important for their community.

Overall Ranking of Programs and Services

Below is the overall ranking of programs services including the descriptions. Given the nature of the survey question, all programs and services are considered important to the respondents' community. The purpose of the ranking is to determine how the respondents prioritize programs and services.

1. **Mental Health Clinics:** The City's Mental Health Centers offer care that provides support for emotional, traumatic, or behavioral difficulties. Support is based on needs identified by the consumer, including goals, objectives, and specific mental health services. These services are provided free of charge to all Chicagoans.
2. **Vaccine Preventable Diseases:** The Immunization Program works to decrease the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases by increasing immunization coverage levels for children, adolescents and adults in Chicago.
3. **Food Protection Division:** Chicago is home to thousands of restaurants, grocery stores, shared kitchens, spas, schools, daycares, public pools, and other establishments. The Food Protection Division conducts inspections of and promotes public health at these establishments and works to ensure they operate in a way that meets health codes to keep Chicagoans safe. The Food Protection Division maintains the safety of food bought, sold, or prepared for public consumption in Chicago by carrying out science-based inspections of all retail food establishments.
4. **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention:** The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program works to detect and address exposures to lead and other home health hazards for communities and people most at risk through nurse case management, strategic inspections and abatement, as well as public education campaigns and testing.
5. **Health Vending Machine & Harm Reduction:** The City operates five Public Health Vending Machines that offer harm reduction supplies at no cost to anyone in Chicago. The machines launched as a pilot program in Fall 2023 and aim to help prevent overdose and support the health and wellbeing of people in Chicago. The machines contain Narcan, Fentanyl and Xylazine test kits, menstrual and other hygiene kits, and socks and underwear.

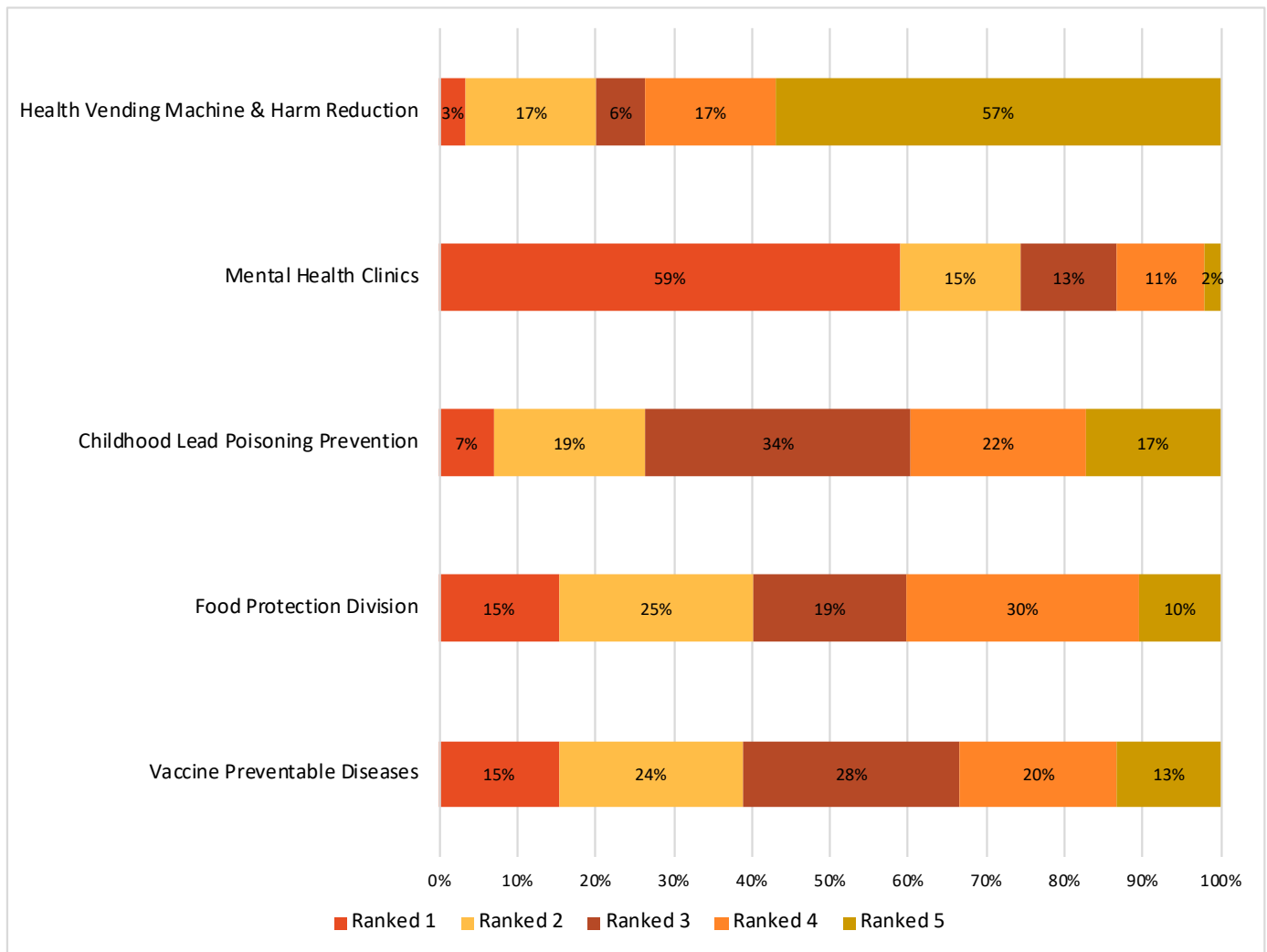
Level of Importance/Ranking for Each Program or Service

- Mental Health Clinics are a clear priority, with 59% of respondents ranking it as the most important to their community.
- The Vaccine for Preventable Diseases and the Food Protection Division programs were closely ranked. The greatest differences in respondent rankings were in how respondents ranked the programs as

third most important (28% and 19%, respectively) or fourth (20% and 30%, respectively) most important.

- 57% of respondents indicated that the Health Vending Machine & Harm Reduction was the fifth most important for their community.

FIG. 10. PHASE 1 SURVEY RESULTS. PUBLIC HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH: PERCENTAGE OF RANKING LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE BY PROGRAM OR SERVICE



Source 2025 Chicago Budget Engagement Phase 1 Survey, 144 question responses. Tabulated by the Great Cities Institute.

CITY OF CHICAGO

2025 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT
INTERIM REPORT
PHASE 1

2025



Great Cities Institute

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UIC GREAT CITIES INSTITUTE FOR THE CHICAGO
OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT,
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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF POLICY, AND
OFFICE OF EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE