

## DEPARTMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

**CITY OF CHICAGO'S GOAL:** *Take a whole-government approach to improve and protect the environment, health, and quality of life in environmental justice (EJ) communities through changes to internal policies, processes, practices and/or budgets.*

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN</b>
<b>Department Name:</b> <i>Water Management</i>
<p><b>Department Scope and Authorities:</b>                      The Department of Water Management (DWM) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the waterworks and sewerage system of the City of Chicago. This includes purification and transmission of potable water to the homes and businesses of Chicago, and 120 suburban communities. And transmission of the effluent from the homes and business of Chicago, to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) for treatment.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Justice Strategy:</b>  <b>Stormwater Management Regional Solution- Area 4:</b> The department's focus regarding stormwater management has begun to include the Area 4 regional stormwater solution. This project will include an extension of MWRD Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) tunnel system as well as over 60 miles of local sewer improvement projects to alleviate overburdened sewers during storm events. The Area 4 sewer service area is bound by 87<sup>th</sup> St to the north, City limits to the south, west and east. This project will address quality of life by reducing flood risk and weather related stress that have negative health impacts.</p> <p><b>Equity Lead Service Line Replacements:</b> The department has an annual goal of conducting 600 free lead service line replacements per year under the equity program. This program is for low-income residents only who are 80% or below AMI, and is funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The department will work with aldermen and community organizations to notify residents who may qualify for the program, in addition to doing mail stuffers with water utility bills.</p> <p><b>Daycares Lead Service Line Replacements:</b> As part of the departments Racial Equity Budget Goal, DWM will conduct 120-150 free lead service line replacements in licensed daycare facilities that are located in: Austin, Englewood, North Lawndale, Chatham, or Roseland or that are in blocks that have been identified as community safety blocks.</p>
<p><b>Supporting Department(s):</b>  <i>List any departments you need to collaborate with to execute this strategy.</i>                      Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)</p>
<p><b>Impact Measures:</b>  <b>Stormwater Management Regional Solution - Area 4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>311 data – after project implementation there should be a reduction in water in basement complaints.</i></li> <li>• <i>Property values – reduction in flood risk should increase property values</i></li> <li>• <i>Quality of life – reduction in flood risk reduces weather related stress and negative health impacts.</i></li> </ul>

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**Related Department Investments & Prior Commitments:**

**Stormwater Management Regional Solution - Area 4:** The Area 4 stormwater management regional solution is nearing completion of the phase I design. The department has committed over \$7M towards this phase. The phase II design is being programmed for 2024.

**Equity Lead Service Line Replacement:** The department has received \$15 million per year in CDBG funding, translating to 600 replacements a year at \$25,000 per replacement.

**Daycares Lead Service Line Replacement:** The department currently has funding for about 120-150 replacements

Action Steps	Timeline	Status
<i>Describe 2 or more specific actions that you will take to advance this strategy. At least one action step should discuss steps you will take to engage people who live in EJ communities to help you plan, implement, and evaluate the success of this strategy.</i>	<i>Note when this step is targeted to be completed</i>	<i>Note any progress to date</i>
<i>Develop and scope phase II design for Area 4 project</i>	<i>18 months</i>	<i>Not started</i>
<i>Community outreach</i>	<i>6 months after design</i>	<i>Not started</i>

**Community Input & Response**

**Community Input:**

*Summarize community input you received on this strategy. What were the suggestions to change or expand upon your original proposal?*

- How can DWM be a more public-facing agency? What efforts is DWM planning to engage communities, especially low-income, black and brown, and those disproportionately affected by water issues?
- Why does the EJ plan only address flooding mitigation and not include water affordability and lead service line replacement?
- How does the EJ Action Plan intersect with the Department's racial equity action plan? How will they be implemented together?
- The Mayor's transition report has several important recommendations for advancing the department's transparency and community engagement. What steps is the Department taking to implement those recommendations?

**Response to Community Input:**

*Describe how you updated the proposal in response to feedback. If you were not able to incorporate a proposed change, explain that decision as clearly and possible.*

- The department has included strategies that now include the lead service line replacement programs in both daycares and equity community areas. The daycares LSLR strategy directly intersects with the department's racial equity goal. The

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Department of Finance handles utility billing (water, sewer, garbage fees) and is not within the department's authority. DWM will work to align operations with the Mayor's priorities.