



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CITY COUNCIL PASSES \$51M MIGRANT FUNDING TO ADDRESS HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

CHICAGO — The City of Chicago has taken a critical step in addressing the pressing needs of migrants and asylum seekers by passing a \$51M budget amendment dedicated to the New Arrivals mission. This funding, approved by the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations last week, passed a full City Council vote today.

“Chicago is facing a humanitarian crisis as individuals and families continue to be sent here and other Democratic-led cities across the country without regard for their well-being,” said Mayor Brandon Johnson. “My administration will do everything in our power to support these new arrivals as they work to rebuild their lives in the U.S while still upholding our commitments to the residents of Chicago. This appropriation is critical to support our efforts to provide housing and services in the immediate future, and I will continue to advocate for additional state and federal funding for as long as needed.”

In 2022, the City expended a total of \$17.5M to support the New Arrivals mission, which began on August 31, 2022. This included \$5.5M received from the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter (EFSP) grant, demonstrating the City's commitment to providing immediate assistance and vital resources to migrants in need.

The City estimates projected costs of \$102M to address the ongoing migrant crisis from January through June 2023. To secure the necessary financial resources, the City has been awarded \$30M from the State of Illinois, highlighting its recognition of the urgency and significance of the situation. Additionally, \$4.3M has been granted to the City through the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP-H). To cover the remaining costs, the City proposed a budget amendment of \$51M, demonstrating its unwavering dedication to supporting new arrivals during their challenging journeys.

The City of Chicago recognizes the magnitude of the migrant crisis and the responsibility it bears in addressing this complex humanitarian issue. The City appreciates the continued support and understanding from the community as we



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navigate the challenges of this crisis. By working together, we can extend a compassionate hand to those most in need and demonstrate the values of our welcoming city.

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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE TO CREATE A PERMANENT EXPANDED OUTDOOR DINING PROGRAM

CHICAGO — Today, City Council approved an ordinance introduced last week by Mayor Brandon Johnson to establish a long-term version of Chicago’s Expanded Outdoor Dining (EOD) program. The ordinance creates legal means for restaurants and bars to continue responsibly operating on the roadway immediately in front of or adjacent to their establishments.

“With the passage of this ordinance, outdoor dining is here to stay in Chicago,” said Mayor Johnson. “Enabling restaurants and bars to offer outdoor dining in the warmer months is not only crucial to their bottom lines and ability to support more jobs, but it is also a practice that Chicagoans have come to expect and deeply appreciate. Sitting at a sidewalk café or dining on the street in front of a local restaurant allows us to take in the soul of a neighborhood as we enjoy a meal or a drink with friends and family. I’m proud of the work so many individuals in my administration put in to get this done.”

The long-term EOD program will be administered by the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT). The approved program establishes the Outdoor Dining Street Permit, which permits establishments with a valid Retail Food Establishment, Tavern, or Consumption on Premises-Incidental Activity liquor license to expand their operations. As an added convenience, restaurants are now permitted to operate in curb lanes adjacent to their licensed premises in order to improve accessibility. Full street closures are still permitted for groups of three or more businesses. These permits are valid from May 1 through October 31 on an annual basis, and all establishments are required to comply with the program’s rules and regulations.

Initially established in response to indoor dining restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has proven to be a popular and effective way to support Chicago’s restaurant industry and create welcoming outdoor community spaces.

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