



CITY OF CHICAGO



BOARD OF ETHICS

## **UPDATED NOTICE REGARDING THE CITY'S LOBBYING LAWS**

As described below, the City is continuing delaying implementation of the laws regarding non-profit lobbyists until further notice. These laws were originally set to take effect January 1, 2020. As the City and many non-profit organizations in Chicago and environs continue to work together to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, the delay in implementation of the City's non-profit lobbying laws requiring individuals who are compensated to lobby on behalf of non-profit entities to register with the Board will continue until such time as the City and Board deem appropriate, or the law is amended.

In the meantime, we *encourage* individuals who "lobby" on behalf of non-profit entities (as "lobby" and "lobbyist" is defined in the Governmental Ethics Ordinance\*) to register as lobbyists with the Board of Ethics but will not enforce the requirement to register with respect to those who choose not to. There are no registration fees for such individuals who lobby on behalf of an IRS-certified §§501(c)(3) or -(c)(4) entity, unless they undertake these lobbying efforts as a matter of professional engagement, by contract. Note, however: once any person *does* register with the Board as a lobbyist, they *will* be subject to the filing requirements and deadlines in the law, though the Board will not impose fines on individuals who lobby on behalf of non-profit entities for missed deadlines (except for those individuals who undertake these efforts as a matter of professional engagement).

The Board and Mayor's Office continue to be committed to working diligently with non-profit organizations and stakeholders to understand and respond to their concerns about this law, and on working toward to increase transparency in Chicago.

\*the Ordinance can be found here:

<https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/ethics/general/Ordinances/GEO-2019-color%20through%20June%202020.pdf>

September 2, 2021