



STEP

'22

SOLUTIONS TOWARD ENDING POVERTY

MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

Evidence-based policies and investments to alleviate poverty and economic hardship in Chicago



SNAPSHOT: 2020-2021 IMPACT FACTS

FINES & FEES REFORMS

- \$11.5 million in city sticker debt forgiven
- Created a pathway to compliance through \$25 down payment plans
- \$125 million in storage fees forgiven
- Significantly reduced vehicle impoundment fines
- Eliminated fines at Chicago Public Libraries
- Paused Tax Intercepts for EITC Recipients
- Paused on Ticketing for COVID Relief
- Ended all debt-based Driver's License suspensions

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMEOWNERSHIP INVESTMENTS

- \$439 million supported the production of over 3,320 units of affordable rental housing
- \$38.5 million assisted 676 households achieve or sustain homeownership
- \$22.6 million to help 3,300 households repair, modify or improve their homes
- In December 2021, DOH announced the largest investment in affordable housing in Chicago history through the Chicago Recovery Plan and 2022 budget, which will invest more than \$1 billion to support 24 new developments that will create or preserve over 2,400 affordable rental units across the City

UTILITY BILLING RELIEF

- \$8 million in debt forgiven for over 17,000 participants, and an additional \$8 million in savings from rate reductions to date
- Average amount forgiven per household: \$1,000+
- 93% of customers were successful at completing the program

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP)

- \$108 million in emergency rental assistance distributed to over 14,000 households
- Since the pandemic, ALL DOH programs have awarded \$130 million in housing relief to over 24,000 households

DFSS RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RAP)

- \$7.6 million in rental assistance provided to 1,388 households at risk of homelessness since September 2020

EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION (DFSS)

- With City support, the Greater Chicago Food Depository distributed 93 million pounds of food in 2020 and 93 million pounds of food in 2021
- 1.5 million individuals and families visited our pantries and received holiday meals at our Community Service Centers

WORKFORCE SUPPORTS (DFSS)

- Our network of City-funded workforce organizations served 5,700 participants and helped place 2,270 of those participants into employment

CTA FARE REDUCTION IN FY22 BUDGET

- CTA launched pass promotions in summer of 2021 and adopted fare reductions in its 2022 Budget
- CTA's transfers are now free. Its unlimited 1, 3, 7, and 30-Day passes saw major price reductions
- The last time CTA pass prices were this low was in 2008

CHICAGO FAMILIES FORWARD FUND

- \$5.9 million in \$500 relief payments provided to the families of 11,804 housing-insecure CPS students

CHICAGO CONNECTED

- Provided free high-speed internet service to approximately 64,000 Chicago Public School students and their families

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

- Since 2020, Chicago provided over \$34 million in youth salaries and stipends through programs like Chicago Youth Service Corps (with over 6,600 participants to date) and the Kickback Series (with over 380 participants to date)

OFFICE OF LABOR STANDARDS

- Increased Chicago's minimum wage to \$15 in 2021
- \$400,317: Total fines levied from problem businesses in the enforcement of worker protections
- \$962,163: Restitution won for the workers through the enforcement of worker protections

COMMUNITY AND SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT

- Launched INVEST South/West, an unprecedented \$1.4 billion neighborhood investment initiative to support revitalization of key corridors on the South and West Sides of Chicago
- Awarded \$20 million in New Neighborhood Opportunity Fund grants to 68 small businesses along South, Southwest and West side commercial corridors
- Distributed \$115 million in pandemic relief to stabilize small- and micro-businesses and nonprofits