



# An Overview of the City of Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

*Working to make Chicago the most accessible city in the nation.*



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

**MOPD**  
Mayor's Office for  
People with Disabilities

Mayor's Office for  
People with Disabilities  
Karen Tamley, Commissioner



# Who are People with Disabilities?

## What is a disability?

According to the ADA, the term disability means, with respect to an individual:

- (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual;
- (b) (b) a record of such impairment; or
- (c) (c) being regarded as having such an impairment.

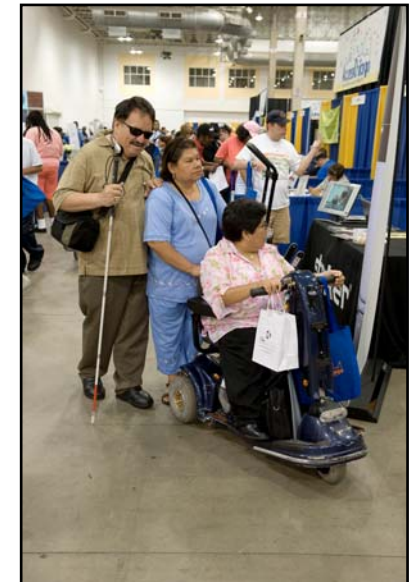


People with disabilities are the largest and fastest growing subgroup of the population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.



# Disability Statistics: *Chicago and U.S.*

- 600,000 residents with disabilities in Chicago
- 7 million people with disabilities live in the Midwest
- 54 million / 1 in 5 people have a disability in the U.S.
- Tens of thousands veterans are returning and will return from Iraq with disabilities
- By 2030, 69 million people with disabilities nationwide
- Disability affects whole family





# Participation in Community Life

- Of 70 million families in U.S., 20.3 million families have at least one member with a disability. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)
- The discretionary income of people with disabilities is \$220 billion. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)
- In 1995, people with disabilities spent \$81.7 billion on travel. (Source: Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality)
- 4 out of 10 people with disabilities conduct business and personal activities online, logging an average of 20 hours per week.
- 18- to 29-year-olds are almost as likely as their non-disabled counterparts to go out to restaurants at least once per week. (Source: National Organization on Disability)
- According to a General Accounting Office report, implementing provisions of the ADA has increased revenues in the hotel and hospitality industry by 12 percent.



# Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities



- Created by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 1990 with goal of making Chicago most accessible city in the nation
- First Cabinet-level MOPD in the U.S.
- Department ensures that City government is responsive and fully accessible to people with disabilities
- Represent residents with disabilities up to 59 years old
- Assure compliance with applicable laws
- Serve as the Mayor's advisor on disability-related issues and policies
- 36 staff members – 1/3 of our employees have disabilities



# Who We Serve and How It's Accomplished

## MOPD serves many constituencies

- City departments, sister agencies, government partners at all levels
- Advocacy organizations
- Residents with disabilities
- service providers
- rehabilitation centers/hospitals
- sports organizations
- grassroots agencies

### Achieved through:

- Direct Disability Resources
- Accessibility Compliance
- Public Policy and Public Affairs
- Disability Awareness Trainings



# Key Barriers Facing Chicagoans with Disabilities

- Poverty/low incomes
- Affordable and accessible housing
- Meaningful employment
- Community services that promote inclusion





# Mission and Approach

## *to serving Chicagoans with Disabilities*

### **Mission:**

- Promote total access, full participation and equal opportunity in all aspects of community life for Chicagoans with disabilities.

### **Four – Pronged Approach:**

- Provide disability resources and direct services
- Draft, monitor and advise regarding disability policy
- Accessibility compliance initiatives
- Disability awareness education and Trainings



# Disability Resources:

## *Increasing the Independence of Residents*

MOPD Provides:

- Information and Referral
- Home Modification grant assistance
- Employment Services
- Youth Employment Readiness Programs
- Case Management
- Assistive Technology
- Homemaker and Personal Assistance Programs
- Amplified Phone Program

*Unit's work is especially critical in current economy*





# Accessibility Compliance:

## *Working to make Chicago Most Accessible City in Nation*

Ensures Chicago is accessible to and welcoming for residents and visitors

Key Unit Responsibilities:

- Citywide Compliance Initiatives
- Building Code Permitting
- Pre-Permit Plan Review
- Site Inspections
- Training
- Compliance Advice/Technical Assistance





# Public Policy and Public Affairs: *Advocacy and Outreach*



- Develop disability policy and positions for Federal Agenda, state and municipal legislation
- Community Outreach
- Promote and advocate for People – First language to media and public
- Provide expertise to City departments, sister agencies and general public regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities at public events and meetings





# Youth and Children with Disabilities

**In the U.S. there are an estimated 4 million children and adolescents under the age of 18 years of age.** (Source: Disability Statistic Center. *Abstract 15: Disabilities Among Children.*)



## Services Focused on Youth and Families:

- Information and referral to area services
- Home modification grants up to \$10,000 (priority for disabled children)
- Benefits analysis – focus on youth
- Employment readiness for high school students
  - Disability Mentoring Day – November
  - Job Shadow Week – February
  - Summer Jobs
- Adaptive sports and recreation referrals
- Expo: AccessChicago – July 15, 2010 at Navy Pier



# Disability Awareness and Compliance: *Promoting Respect and Inclusion*

- Disability Awareness and Etiquette Education Trainings
- Substance Abuse and AIDS Prevention Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Independent Living Skills Program
- Oversight of physical and communication accessibility of Chicago's Summer Lakefront Festivals
- Citywide training for use of accessible communication devices





# Making Chicago the Most Accessible City: Key Initiatives



- Emergency preparedness
- Accessible and safe streets and sidewalks
- Accessible festivals and events
- Assure citywide compliance with disability laws
- Voting accessibility
- Improving access to Chicago's small businesses
- Promoting employment and disabled-owned businesses
- Improving transportation access and options (CTA, Pace, Metra, Taxis)
- Increasing housing accessibility and options





# What's to Come

## AccessChicago

Midwest's largest expo for people with disabilities

**July 15, 2010 ● 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

Navy Pier, Festival Hall A

20<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of ADA and MOPD

