

Shared Cost Sidewalk Program

Program Overview

Overview

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program is a voluntary program in which property owners share the cost of sidewalk reconstruction with the City to improve neighborhoods. Thousands of Chicagoans have been a part of this popular program, taking advantage of the low cost, exceptional value, and ease of participation.

Scope

The scope of a Shared Cost Sidewalk Program project includes sidewalk within the public right-of-way, and may include the main walk, the sidewalk through a driveway, the existing courtesy walk (which runs perpendicular from the main sidewalk to the curb), and existing landing steps (the small strip of concrete sometimes found adjacent to the curb). Please see the diagrams at the end of this document for examples of these features. CDOT may reconstruct ADA-compliant corner ramps where applicable, with the City paying the entire cost of the ramps.

Eligibility and Limitations

All property owners with **non-vaulted** sidewalks are eligible to participate. Custom sidewalks (e.g., granite, colored, custom designs, etc.), vaulted sidewalks, water meter vaults, stairs located within the city right-of-way, and private property sidewalks are **not** eligible to be included in the program.

Repairs are focused on poor condition sidewalk and will NOT necessarily improve existing puddling conditions or drainage. Drainage remedies often require full block replacement and may not fall within the scope of this program.

Sidewalk on private property will only be included if needed for transition purposes; otherwise, it is NOT eligible for replacement under the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program.

To minimize the cost to property owners and increase the number of Shared Cost Sidewalk Program participants, only the portion of sidewalk in need of replacement as determined by CDOT is eligible for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program pricing. Replacement of sidewalk is based on engineering considerations.

Cost to Participate

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program cost per square foot charged to property owners is well below what a private contractor would charge. Senior citizens and persons with disabilities may also qualify to receive a 50 percent discount. The approximate cost to a property owner of an average mid-block property will range from \$1,000 to \$2,400.

This bill is based on measurements and is considered final. If it is later determined that more work is needed, you will NOT be billed for that additional work. Furthermore, if the amount of work is reduced for any reason,

your money will be refunded if the difference is \$100 or greater.

Owners of corner properties will be charged for sidewalk on both the main (address) side and the non-address side of the property.

The property owner does have the option to replace the entire sidewalk in front of the property. However, the entire cost to remove and replace the portion of sidewalk determined by CDOT to be in good condition will be charged to the property owner. NO senior or persons with disabilities discount will be applied to this work. You must reach out to CDOT at 312-744-1746 or email us at cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org to receive an invoice that includes the sidewalk not eligible for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program pricing.

Please contact our office at 312-744-1746 before sending your payment if you would like to request any changes to the scope of work represented on this bill.

Discounts

Seniors (age 65 or older) or disabled owner-occupants of non-commercial properties of four units or less are eligible for discounts.

Seniors age 65 or older must provide proof of age, ownership, and occupancy:

- Ownership: tax bill (2nd installment) or title deed
- Age: birth certificate or driver's license or 2nd installment tax bill showing senior exemption
- Occupancy: voter's card or recent utility bill

Persons with disabilities must provide proof of ownership, occupancy, and disability:

- Ownership: tax bill (2nd installment) or title deed
- Occupancy: voter's card or recent utility bill
- Disability: Must provide one of the following:
 - Disability benefits received from Social Security Administration, Veterans Administration, Civil Service, or Railroad Retirement
 - Class 2 disability card from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office

To be eligible for the discount, ALL documents submitted must match the participating address.

Documentation verifying the senior citizen or persons with disabilities rate must be submitted as follows:

- Fax to (312) 744-6438, ATTN: Shared Cost Sidewalk Program
- Email to: cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org
- Mail to:

Shared Cost Sidewalk Program
Chicago Department of Transportation
2 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 820
Chicago, Illinois 60602

For any assistance with or questions regarding the senior citizen or persons with disabilities rate, please contact CDOT at 312-744-1746 or email us at cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org.

Enrollment

The 2026 Shared Cost Sidewalk Program will open to new applicants on January 12, 2026, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The enrollment process is as follows:

1. Applications for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program will only be accepted either through the City's 311 system by calling 311, through the City's service request website <https://311.chicago.gov>, or through the free CHI311 mobile apps on iOS Apple and Android. Please note the following on your application:
 - Make sure to specify that you want to participate in the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program.
 - Specify if you (the owner) are a senior or disabled citizen. Seniors and/or disabled citizens may qualify for a 50 percent discount on the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program cost.
 - If you currently do not have a courtesy walk (which runs perpendicular from the main sidewalk to the curb) or landing step (the small strip of concrete sometimes found adjacent to the curb) and would like one installed, this should be mentioned at the time of request. Installation is subject to engineering recommendation.
 - If you are interested in removal and replacement of the driveway apron (the portion of driveway between the sidewalk and curb), this should be mentioned at the time of request.
 - You must give the property owner's complete name, a contact phone number, email address if available, and the property's complete address. Please note that Shared Cost Sidewalk Program applications that are missing any of this requested information may not be processed.
2. Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The number of participants is based on availability of funds. Once capacity is reached, requests for participation in the program will no longer be accepted and property owners will have to apply to the program the following year. Applicants will be notified indicating whether they have been included into the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program. Also check our website (<https://www.chicago.gov/sharedcost>) for program updates.
3. CDOT will survey the area to determine the scope and cost of reconstruction. CDOT may determine that some locations meet City standards and do not require reconstruction.
4. If CDOT determines that the property is eligible for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program, CDOT will send an invoice for the work to the property owner in late spring. If interested, payment in full must be made to the City's Department of Finance within the timeframe indicated on the invoice. Invoices are only valid for the timeframe indicated on the estimate. Payment in full must be made to the City's Department of Finance within this timeframe for work to proceed.

Payment can also be made in person at one of the Department of Finance payment locations:

- 121 N LaSalle St Room 107 (Mon.-Fri.: 9am – 5pm)
- 400 W Superior St. 1st Floor (Mon.-Fri.: 8:30am – 4:30pm)
- 4445 N Pulaski Rd (Mon.-Fri.: 9am – 5pm)
- 4770 S Kedzie Ave (Mon.-Fri.: 9am – 5pm)
- 2006 E 95th St (Mon.-Fri.: 9am – 5pm)

Payments can be made by credit card in person at the Department of Finance payment locations listed above only.

5. If you are eligible for a senior citizen or persons with disability rate that was not applied to your estimate, contact CDOT at 312-744-1746. A revised invoice will be issued to the property owner reflecting the discount once the required documentation has been received and verified. Payment must be submitted within the timeframe indicated on the original invoice.
6. The work will begin as soon as possible. The construction season runs approximately from June to December.

Frequently Asked Questions

- *Will the driveway apron be replaced?*

If your driveway crosses the sidewalk, the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program scope of work may include the sidewalk through the driveway and a small patch of the driveway alongside it. Abandoned driveway aprons no longer in use will be removed and replaced with topsoil and hydroseed. Removing abandoned driveway aprons and replacing them with topsoil and hydroseed will be paid for by the City.

Due to significant participant interest, the removal and replacement of **permitted** driveway aprons (the portion of driveway between the sidewalk and curb) can be added to the project. To find out the additional cost, please reach out to the Chicago Department of Transportation at cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org. You can visit the permitting website using the link below to apply for the permit.
<https://ipi.cityofchicago.org/Profile>

If there are no potential hazards on the right of way and Option-1 amount on the invoice indicates \$0.00, the driveway apron can still be replaced at full cost at the homeowner's expense.

- *Will the area receive grass seed or sod?*

The contractor will place topsoil and hydroseed down after the sidewalk has been replaced. It will be the property owner's responsibility to water the seed as necessary. The contractor will not return to add more hydroseed if the first batch does not germinate. If you do not want the contractor to place hydroseed, you will need to contact CDOT at 312-744-1746 or cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org.

- *What if tree roots have impacted the sidewalk?*

If necessary, the existing courtesy walk or landing step will be removed and replaced further away from the tree to help avoid future damage. If it is determined the courtesy walk or landing step cannot be either replaced in the current location or relocated, it will be replaced with topsoil and hydroseed. Removing courtesy walks or landing steps and replacing them with topsoil and hydroseed will be charged to you at the standard Shared Cost Sidewalk Program rate.

If a tree or its roots have impacted the main sidewalk, either root pruning will occur before placement of new sidewalk, or the sidewalk will be routed around the tree to allow for future tree growth. Determination will depend on the required arborist report and review done by the Bureau of Forestry. Due to this process, locations with impacting tree roots may delay construction.

- *What if there is a sprinkler system, private utility or heated sidewalk at the property?*

The city is not responsible for any damage done to anything within, or under the sidewalk that is not considered a public utility.

Property owners should notify the city of an existing sprinkler system to minimize any potential damage. To further avoid any potential damage to the sprinkler system, property owners are advised to cut and cap the lines and remove any sprinkler heads that may be damaged during the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program work.

- *Is there any warranty for the work?*

Yes. Sidewalk construction has a warranty of one year from the date of construction, covering significant deterioration of the sidewalk. (Note: Some small cracks, especially in sidewalk joints, are common. Since they are not caused by construction, they are not covered by the warranty).

- *What if there is a water meter vault within the public right-of-way?*

Water meters and their vaults are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. All water meter devices including vaults and surrounding sidewalk are to be maintained by and at the expense of the owner or consumer and therefore are not eligible for replacement under the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program.

- *Can we pick one side of the property to be replaced?*

Yes, for a corner property one side of the property can be replaced under this program.

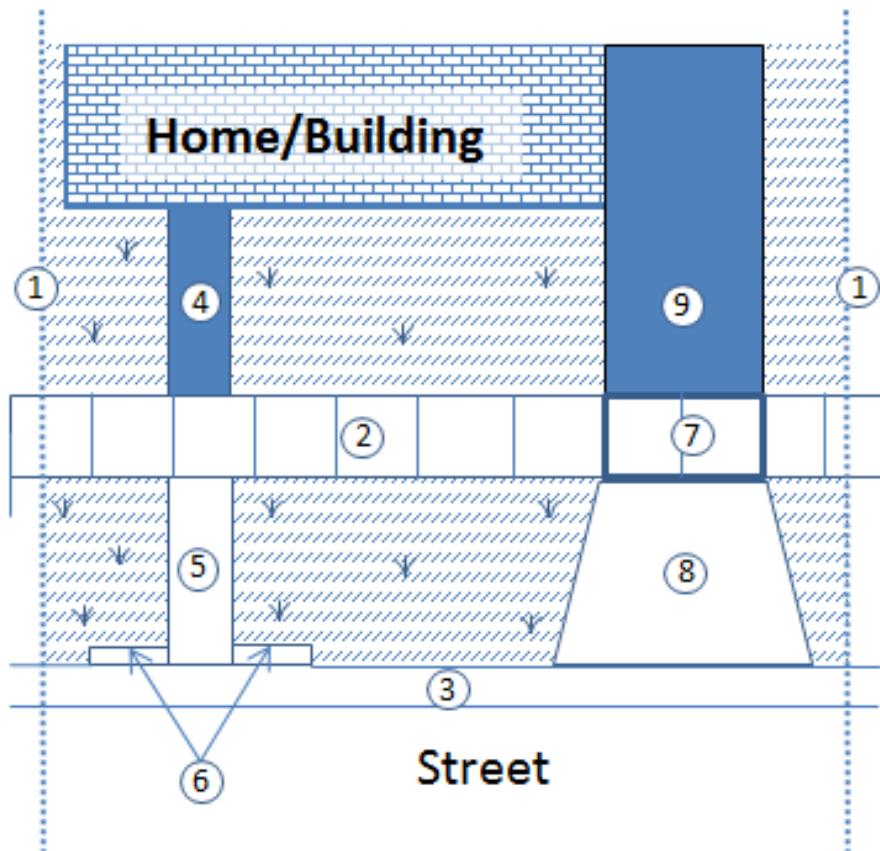
- *How do I read the drawing that was sent to me?*

Please see the attached diagrams.

- *My questions were not answered.*

Should you have any questions, please contact CDOT at (312) 744-1746 or email cdotsharedcost@cityofchicago.org.

MID-BLOCK PROPERTY WITH DRIVEWAY: SIDEWALK WITH PARKWAY



LEGEND

1. Property Lines	5. Courtesy Walk
2. Main Sidewalk	6. Landing Step
3. Curb and gutter (entirely City cost, when applicable)	7. Sidewalk thru driveway
4. PRIVATE PROPERTY Sidewalk	8. Driveway Apron
	9. Driveway - PRIVATE PROPERTY
	/// Grass / Landscaping

Note: Items 4 & 9 are private property and not eligible for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program

SHARED COST SIDEWALK PROGRAM EXAMPLE DIAGRAM
CORNER PROPERTY
 (NOT TO SCALE)

