

Shared Cost Sidewalk Program

Frequently Asked Questions

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program is a voluntary program in which owner-occupants and the City of Chicago share the cost of replacing sidewalks.

The scope of a Shared Cost Sidewalk Program project may include the main walk, 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). Owner-occupants of corner properties will continue to be charged for both the main (address side) sidewalk and the sidewalk on the non-address side of the property. CDOT will continue to build ADA-compliant corner ramps where applicable, with the City paying the entire cost of the ramps.

For 2015 the unit cost charged to homeowners will be \$4 per square foot. Senior citizens and those with disabilities may qualify to receive a 50 percent discount. The approximate cost to a homeowner of an average mid-block property will range from \$600 to \$1,200. Those prices are significantly below what a private contractor would charge. The City can offer that attractive price because of the volume of work performed by the City.

How does the process work?

1. Owner-occupants can only request participation in the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program through the City's 311 system by calling 311 or accessing the City's service request website www.cityofchicago.org/311. Note the following:
 - Make sure to specifically note 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.
 - Specify if the request is for a corner property.
 - Specify if you have a driveway that crosses the sidewalk.
 - 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 building owner-occupant's complete name, a contact phone number, and the building's complete address. **Please note that Shared Cost Sidewalk Program applications that are missing any of this requested information will not be processed.**
2. CDOT will survey the area to determine the scope and cost of reconstruction. In rare cases, CDOT may determine that some locations meet City standards and do not require reconstruction.
3. Replacement of sidewalk is based on engineering considerations. In order 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. The owner-occupant does have the option to replace the entire sidewalk in front of the property. However, the cost to remove and replace the portion of

sidewalk determined by CDOT to be in good condition must be entirely paid by the owner-occupant.

4. CDOT will perform an engineering survey. If CDOT determines that the property is eligible for the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program, CDOT will send a cost estimate for work to be constructed to the homeowner. If interested, mail payment **postmarked by July 15, 2015** to the City's Department of Finance as instructed in the cost estimate. Payment can also be made in person at one of the Department of Finance payment locations (121 N LaSalle St Room 107, 400 W. Superior St, 2550 W Addison St, 4770 S Kedzie Ave, and 2006 E 95th St). Once payment is submitted, contact CDOT at 312-744-1746 to verify payment has been received. **The cost estimate is valid until July 15, 2015.**
5. If you are eligible for a senior or disabled citizen rate that was not applied to your estimate, contact CDOT at 312-744-1746. A second billing will be issued to the homeowner evidencing the discount once the required documentation is received and verified. Once payment is submitted, contact CDOT at 312-744-1746 to verify payment has been received. **The cost estimate is valid until July 15, 2015.**
6. The work will begin as soon as possible. The construction season runs approximately from April to November. Once capacity is reached, requests for participation in the program will no longer be accepted and homeowners will have to apply to the program in the following year. To ensure fairness, requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Who is eligible to participate?

All homeowners with non-vaulted sidewalks are eligible to participate. Custom sidewalks (e.g., granite, colored, custom designs, etc.) are **not eligible** for replacement.

Who is eligible for the senior or disabled discount?

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

What information is required to receive the senior or disabled rate?

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 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 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

Documentation verifying the senior rate or disability rate should be submitted by one of the following options:

- Fax to (312) 744-6438, ATTN: Shared Cost Sidewalk Program
- Mail to :

Shared Cost Sidewalk Program
Chicago Department of Transportation
30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60602

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

What does the scope of work include?

The Shared Cost Sidewalk Program work may include replacing the main sidewalk in front of the property, as well as the existing courtesy walk (the smaller walkway that runs perpendicular to the main walk, from the main walk to the curb) and existing landing steps (the small strip of concrete sometimes found parallel to the curb). Replacement is based on engineering considerations. The scope of the repair work will be determined by CDOT. Replacement of sidewalk found to be in good condition is not eligible for replacement at the Shared Cost Sidewalk Program price. The owner-occupant does have the option to replace the entire sidewalk in front of the property. However, the cost to remove and replace the portion of sidewalk determined by CDOT to be in good condition must be entirely paid by the owner-occupant. **No** senior or persons with disabilities discount will apply to this work.

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. Abandoned driveways no longer in use will be removed only and backfilled. Due to significant Shared Cost Sidewalk Program 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. However, the entire cost to remove and replace the driveway apron will be charged to the homeowner. **No** senior or persons with disabilities discount will apply to this work.

Will the area receive grass seed?

No. Crews will not seed the area around the main walk, courtesy walk and landing step if the soil is disrupted during construction.

Will pavers or other structures in the parkway be reset when work is completed?

Brick pavers, fencing, and planters or any other obstructions in the parkway may be removed during construction and will be loosely reset when construction is completed. Reinstallation of removed elements is the homeowner's responsibility.

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).

If you have any additional questions, please contact CDOT at 312-744-1746 or email us at cdotnews@cityofchicago.org.