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October 19, 2023

Chairman Jason Ervin
Committee on Budget and Government Operations
121 N La Salle St Rm 200
Chicago, IL 60602

Honorable Chairman Ervin,

Following the Budget Hearing for Chicago Department of Family and Support Services on October 19, 2023, I kindly request the following questions through the chair.

Can DFSS outline a breakdown of Mayor Johnson's proposed \$6.8 million in operational support for the shelter system?

Can you detail the contract between DFSS and CTA, including expenditures and services rendered?

How is the demand for shelter beds through 311 tracked and considered when making policy on how many shelter beds should be stood up and how many beds are needed? How does the Department plan to address foundational data and placement issues with 311 as reported by WBEZ earlier this year? Are all emergency shelter beds utilized throughout the winter or does the Department track when usable beds are not matched to people who need them?

The Chicago Reader and People's Response Network have respectively documented and called out accessibility and capacity issues with city-wide Warming Centers. How is the Department working to respond to and address these challenges?

How does the Department plan to integrate person-centered design into Chicago's shelter system to make it more accessible without cars, and cater to the street-based homeless population who are less likely to access traditional shelter models?

Are DFSS shelter reimbursement rates/grant payments commensurate with minimum wage or living wage estimate increases?

The Mayor's FY24 budget proposal, on pg. 594, demonstrates that DFSS previously had grants of \$998,341,894 in 2023, with a carryover of \$438,950,251 and \$268,540,106 in 2024. This results in a cut in grants down to \$707 million. What accounts for the cut in these grants, and which services will be most impacted?

The Mayor's FY24 budget proposal, on pg. 591, demonstrates that DFSS is carrying over \$157 million of its \$222 million in American Rescue Plan Act grants from 2023. How much of this carryover was planned in 2023, and how much of it was unexpected? What percentage does the department expect to spend in 2024, as opposed to carrying over into 2025 and 2026?

What metrics is the Department using to evaluate the youth violence intervention program that began in June?

Can you itemize the gender-based violence, domestic violence, or related grants that expired in 2023, or did not carry over into 2024? Can you outline the full gender-based violence grant programming that is to be spent in 2024?

In the City's recent SLFRF report on American Rescue Plan Act spending, the City demonstrated the following programs have a status of not-started. What is DFSS's role in any of these housing and violence prevention programming?

- Re-entry Housing Navigation Pilot (\$4.898M)
- Sobering Center (\$5.000M)
- Stabilization Housing (Mental health Services) (\$12.000M)
- Gender-based violence prevention, education, training (\$1.225M)
- Low Barrier Shelter (\$0.500M)

Sincerely,



Alderman Daniel La Spata
1st Ward Alderman
Chairman, Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety