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**MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH MACARTHUR FOUNDATION AND
CHAPIN HALL IN CITYWIDE DATA COLLECTION PROJECT**

\$300,000 Grant Will Allow Singular Data Platform to Help Create Public Health Index

With the help of a \$300,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Mayor Rahm Emanuel today introduced a proposal to have Chapin Hall work with the City's Chief Data Officer to document citywide data and consolidate it into a singular data platform that will improve City operations, services and analytical decision making. This is a continuation of the Mayor's efforts to improve the City's technological capabilities to be more efficient and intelligent through data driven decision making.

"I have said from day one that the City's decision making process needs to be driven by facts and data analysis so we can be smarter about where we invest our resources and how we deliver City services," said Mayor Emanuel. "We can't see the full picture unless we work together and bring the information we collect into one place. This partnership will allow us to do just that."

"In the age of information, it is fundamentally important for the public sector to be able to analyze its data in sophisticated ways. This project has the potential to amplify the impact of so many of our investments in improving the quality of life in Chicago," said Robert Gallucci, President of the MacArthur Foundation.

The Chapin Hall project will lead to an inventory of the City of Chicago and its sister agencies' data, as there is currently no comprehensive catalog of all the data the City collects. The City collects a huge volume of data, but it is impossible to take advantage of that resource without understanding exactly what data the City owns. Often times, available data is in different formats and stored and tracked in different ways.

“If we can create a sustainable data platform to store all of the City’s data, we are better able to move past administrative and technical hurdles so we can pursue complex and interdisciplinary data analytics as a result,” said Chief Data Officer Brett Goldstein who will oversee the project.

Chapin Hall will help the City design a unified data platform that will allow the City to pursue the creation of a Neighborhood Health Index that will allow the City to assess the overall condition of the city’s neighborhoods and help the City get ahead of problems.

The MacArthur Foundation has a historic commitment to supporting the vitality and creativity of Chicago’s institutions and has awarded \$1 billion in grants in Chicago over the Foundation’s history. Among other grantmaking in Chicago, MacArthur supports research and infrastructure for data analysis that drives innovation in the public and nonprofit sectors.

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago has, since its inception in 1985 as a research and policy center, focused on a mission of improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities. Through policy research—by developing and testing new ideas, generating and analyzing information, and examining policies, programs, and practices across a wide range of service systems and organizations. Chapin Hall’s impact derives largely from rigorous academic research with innovative partnerships with the public systems, institutions, organizations, and programs that are in a position to best deploy that research. Chapin Hall researchers come from a variety of academic backgrounds, including social work, public policy, education, economics, sociology, psychology, and law. Many have significant direct service experience that informs and enriches their research. Others have worked in federal and state government, service agencies, or policy research organizations. Chapin Hall’s research agenda looks within systems, such as child welfare and education, to learn how various policies, programs, and practices are succeeding or struggling.

Chapin Hall is expected to start the work in March 2012.

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