Prioritizing privacy in the Windy City.

Using Chicago as a model for open data.



Chicago is a shining example of how cities can use data.



Put individual privacy first.



Never ask for personal or identifying data.



Avoid reidentification of residents.

These principles guide their approach as they prepare data for public release. And the results are detailed learnings that never compromise the privacy of residents:



Aggregation over time

All timestamps for trips are rounded to the nearest 15-minute interval. Exact times for when trips start and end are never shared.



Aggregation by geography

The latitude and longitude of origins and destinations are assigned to the census tract. The precise longitude and latitude are never shared.



Aggregation by density of trips

Trips are only shared when there are three or more trips within the census tract and time interval. When there are two or fewer similar trips, Chicago reports trips at the community level. We recommend either identifying a larger geographic area or removing those trips entirely.

To learn more about Chicago's data-sharing practices, go to dev.cityofchicago.org

