



For Immediate Release
February 10, 2015

Contact: Adorn Lewis-Mitchell, 312.318.9696
ADORNLMITCHELL@AOL.COM

Chicago Rehab Network Releases Housing Market Analysis by Ward

Widespread and increasing housing cost-burden threatens neighborhood stability

CHICAGO (February 10, 2015) – While public policy and resources brought millions of poor Americans into the middle class between the 1930s through 1960s by directing the marketplace, today leaders fail to emphasize the critical stabilizing force of housing that is affordable. CRN’s analysis finds that housing insecurity is more widespread across incomes and neighborhoods suggesting stronger interventions are required.

In 1990, according to CRN’s City of Chicago Fact Sheet, 1 out of 4 Chicagoans were cost-burdened (spending more than 30% of income for housing costs). Today, more than 20 years later, the number has doubled to 1 out of 2 – fully half of the households in Chicago are experiencing housing insecurity.

Affordable housing has changed the lives of families, stabilized communities, and creates millions in economic impact in Chicago. Year after year, the city, county, and state rely on nonprofit partners to develop the public and private investments that build the supply of affordable housing. CRN mission is the promise of community empowerment and development to support equitable policies and resources to allow households and neighborhoods to thrive.

Affordable housing advocate, policy and training leader the Chicago Rehab Network (CRN) has released its new Housing Ward Sheets. CRN is the only organization to create this analysis of important ward-level market data in partnership with the UIC Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood Improvement. This demographic and market information is produced using the new ward boundaries per the 2010 U.S. Census and is available publicly for the first time.

--more--

This data is a go-to resource for many community development practitioners, elected officials, and community leaders and is key in the upcoming elections as it indicates present realities in each ward and demonstrates citywide trends. The ward sheets provide an objective standard for evaluating development plans based on local household income and housing costs.

“Leadership and innovation is needed to make Chicago a place of opportunity not only for the affluent, but for the great needs evidenced in the ward fact sheets,” says CRN Executive Director Kevin Jackson. “Our release of this ward-based housing fact sheets, in part, is to encourage conversations about the state of our communities and action on the need to stabilize neighborhoods at risk.

According to the report, “As the twin menaces of income inequality and housing insecurity grow, the need for local leadership on the housing front has never been greater. The unprecedented needs documented in this research requires a much stronger response from the city, state, and federal government.”

About the Chicago Rehab Network – For over 35 years, CRN has worked to train, coordinate and empower community-based organizations engaged in developing affordable housing across Chicago and the region. CRN’s robust advocacy efforts also have resulted in numerous affordable housing policies and resources, including the Affordable Requirements Ordinance, the Tax Reactivation Program, State of Illinois Housing Trust Fund, various property tax reforms, and the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit. In addition to advocacy and training, CRN provides industry-wide thought leadership through regular policy updates, best practice case studies, and demographic and economic analysis related to housing needs and markets.

#

This project and other CRN programs are supported generously by the Chicago Community Trust, the Polk Bros. Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Pierce Family Foundation, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Harris Family Foundation, US Bank, JPMorgan Chase, Northern Trust, BMO Harris, Northern Trust, Citi, Bank of America, Allstate, and PNC Bank.