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Chicago Rehab Network

Chicago Rehab Network Announces

A successful Member and Resident Workshop

Thanks to everyone who joined us on September 27 for our Member and Resident Workshop. We at the Chicago Rehab Network had a great time working with everyone and look forward to doing it again in the future. With an excellent lineup of speakers, interactive group discussions and constructive dialogue between residents and managers, this comprehensive workshop was a huge success in educating those who need access to affordable housing. This event was unique in providing relevant information for both co-op residents and managers, but also in bringing the two groups together to discuss issues from all perspectives.



"If co-ops are going to succeed in the future, we have to educate our members, or there will be no more co-ops," said Gwendolyn Thomas, Senior Projects Manager with HUD, speaking at the conference.

Throughout the sessions, residents and members were able to engage one another on issues that matter most to those who utilize or manage affordable housing. Morning sessions focused on refinancing, as HUD encouraged co-ops to consider refinancing with all its



current benefits.



"This gave me something to think about and bring back to my board," said Shirley Hardiman, President of the Board at Neighborhood Commons. "We did a refinancing for 7.25% and now I see we could get 4.25% so we may do it again."

Members and residents got a great deal of information from the panels of speakers, but also from networking and sharing their own trials in the field.

"Some of the co-ops are 30, 40 years old," said Nancy Rodriguez of Taylor Made Property Services. "We learned a lot from listening to the other co-ops talk about their experiences."



Thanks to collaboration with HUD and the Preservation Compact, we were able to satisfy the needs of a community that is often left to fend for itself. Whether it be the debate over access to cable and internet, or a crash course in conflict resolution, the Member and Resident Workshop was a success in bringing co-ops together and putting the community on a path towards sustainable, affordable housing.

"We all have our own problems," said Lavern Dixon, resident at Kenmore Plaza. "But the only way to get through and move forward is to do it and learn together. That's what co-op means."

Chicago Rehab Network
Kevin Jackson
Executive Director

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