



Updates from CRN

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In This Issue

[2019 Empowerment Series](#)

[VISTA Position Available](#)

[Equity in Action Series](#)

[Community Benefits Agreement](#)

[Congratulations to Juan Carlos Linares and LUCHA](#)

[State Capital Bill](#)

[CHRE Members Announced](#)

[The Plunder of Black Wealth in Chicago](#)

[Interagency Celebrates 10 Years](#)

Empowerment Series Continues This Month

Do you want to learn technical skills for affordable development from Chicago's community development leaders? **The Empowerment Series continues June 20 and 21** with Proforma Development taught by Maurice Williams. Understanding principles of real estate development and finance is critical to maintaining the long-term affordability of your project. In this session, learn to create development proformas, income and expense statements, and cash flow analyses. Emphasis will be placed on structuring projects with tax credits, grant funding, and public funds.

[REGISTER](#)

About CRN

Who We Are:

For 40 years, the Chicago Rehab Network has worked to train, coordinate, and empower community-based organizations developing affordable housing across Chicago and the region. CRN's advocacy has resulted in policies and resources including the Affordable Requirements Ordinance, the Tax Reactivation Program, the State of Illinois Housing Trust Fund, and the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit. In addition to advocacy and training, CRN provides industry-wide thought leadership through regular policy



VISTA Position Available

Join the CRN team as a 2019-2020 AmeriCorps VISTA member! The Research & Capacity-Building VISTA will work in collaboration with CRN staff and partner organizations to grow our capacity-building programs and provide a thorough body of research to inform trainings and public policy

priorities. [Find out more here.](#)

Learn More About CRN's VISTA Program

Maura Fennelly has been serving as CRN's Research & Capacity Building VISTA since August of 2018. Maura works on numerous projects related to affordable housing. She researches property tax policies, shared equity cooperatives, quality-of-life plans, and other programs. The findings from her work are used in CRN's advocacy for improving the state of affordable housing in Chicago, Cook County, and Illinois.



She also assists with CRN's Community Development and Empowerment Series. Maura coordinates the planning and outreach for the trainings. One of the many benefits of being a VISTA at CRN is that she participates in the training series. She learns firsthand from community development practitioners and builds relationships with people attending the courses. Maura's most rewarding experiences as a VISTA are her conversations with affordable housing advocates from neighborhoods across the City.

Before joining CRN and starting as an AmeriCorps volunteer, Maura was in Washington, D.C. where she graduated from American University in May 2018 with majors in Political Science and Sociology.

Save the Date

Equity in Action Conversation Series

The Metropolitan Planning Council is hosting Equity in Action, a conversation series that seeks to create and elevate public dialogue on the interlocking issues that define and shape racial and economic realities. Read more about the series and register for events [here](#).

Community Benefits Agreement Meeting



In February, 90% of voters from Stony Island to King Drive voted for a community benefits agreement to stop displacement around the Obama Presidential Center. On June 6, community members and organizations will meet at Hyde Park High School to share updates about the ordinance and work on holding elected leaders accountable. Learn more [here](#).

updates, best practice case studies, and demographic and economic analysis related to housing needs and markets.

Support our Mission:

With your help, we can build strong neighborhoods, strengthen capacity, and foster community leadership.

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In the News

Congratulations to Juan Carlos Linares and LUCHA

Following his role as a Board Member and then Executive Director at LUCHA, Juan Carlos Linares will join the City of Chicago as Chief Engagement Officer later this month. During his time at LUCHA, Juan Carlos launched the Community Law Project and expanded the organization's Resident and Community Services from a half-time staff person to a seven person team. LUCHA was also recently awarded the Mission Award by the Illinois Green Alliance for their commitment to working at the intersection of health and housing through the Tierra Linda development project. Congratulations to the LUCHA team!



Juan Carlos Linares (third from right) with LUCHA staff. Photo courtesy of LUCHA.

Housing Funding in State Capital Bill

Following months of advocacy by housing groups around the state, the General Assembly passed a major bi-partisan capital bill that dedicates \$200 million in funds for affordable housing, an increase from Governor Pritzker's original proposal of \$175 million. Additionally, the General Assembly did not divert 50% of funds from the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, as was originally outlined in the budget. CRN worked in coalition with Affordable Assisted Living Coalition, Housing Action Illinois, Illinois Housing Council, Center for Supportive Housing, Supportive Housing Providers Association, and Enterprise, as well as Representative Guzzardi, Representative Ramirez, Senator Hunter, and more committed housing advocates to make affordability a priority for our state's future. This is a victory for communities throughout Illinois!

Committee on Housing and Real Estate Members Announced

The list of council members who will sit on the City Council's Committee on Housing and Real Estate has been released.

Among them include Chair Harry Osterman (48th Ward) and Vice Chair Walter Burnett, Jr. (27th Ward). Read the full list [here](#).

The Plunder of Black Wealth in Chicago

According to a new report published by Duke University's Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity, black homebuyers in Chicago lost at least \$3.2 billion in today's dollars between 1950 and 1970 because of racist real estate policies and predatory contracts. This is the first study to put a dollar amount on how much wealth was extracted from Chicago's black community in the 1950s and 60s through home sale contracts. Read the [article from the Sun-Times](#), or find the full report [here](#).



Interagency Celebrates 10 Years

The Preservation Compact has been a trailblazer in coordinating the work of public agencies to identify and preserve government-assisted properties through a coordinated group of stakeholders known as the [Interagency Council](#). Over the past ten years, Interagency Council partners (HUD, IHDA, City of Chicago, Cook County, CHA, and community groups) have [successfully preserved 6,200 affordable units in Cook County](#).

Preservation partner Gwen Thomas of HUD has been there since the beginning, and on May 29th, was presented with the prestigious Interagency Council Founders Award!