



February 23, 2021 News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

UPDATES FROM CRN

The Empowerment Series Continues in March with Project and Construction Management

The Community Development and Empowerment Series will continue next month with four Project and Construction Management workshops beginning March 4 taught by Angela Hurlock, Executive Director of [Claretian Associates](#) and Chairperson of the CHA Board of Commissioners. Creating quality affordable housing requires knowledge of construction--in this class, you'll learn how to choose a project team, how to manage contracts, and how to closeout a project.

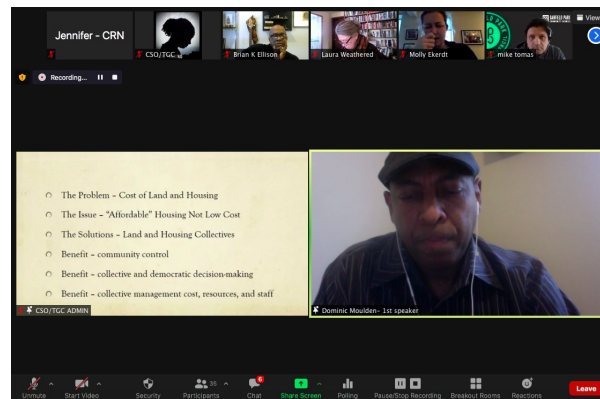
[RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW](#)

Collective Impact and Theory of Change Summit

Thank you to all who joined us for two dynamic days of collaboration and community-building at the Center for Shared Ownership's recent summit! Members of leading local affordable housing organizations co-sponsors Habitat for Humanity, POAH, and South Shore Works, met between February 5 and 6 for a [Collective Impact virtual summit sponsored by the Center for Shared Ownership](#). Featuring presentations from Community Organizer Dominic T.

Moulden, Leading Inside Out CEO Paul Schmitz, Professor of Urban Planning and Policy Stacey Sutton, Become Center CEO

Dominica McBride, and Wyman Winston of Neighborhood Wealth, the Summit's programming focused on exploring the promises and challenges of implementing Collective Impact and Theory of Change frameworks and strategies. The response from attendees, speakers, and staff was positive, inspiring, and encouraging about ways to move forward with big plans. The Center for Shared Ownership intends to use the tools and resources outlined at this summit to further support local activism around affordable housing and housing cooperatives.



Department of Housing Q3 Report Out Now

The Department of Housing's [2020 Third Quarter Progress Report](#) is out now! The report was presented to the Committee on Housing and Real Estate by DOH on February 16. CRN presented our [analysis of the third quarter report](#) to CHRE, which included comments on ongoing COVID-19 relief efforts and underscored the importance of adequate resources for community development corporations. No new developments were built or preserved in the third quarter.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Erie Neighborhood House: 150 Years as a Home with No Borders

Join Chicago Women's History Center board member and VP Maureen Hellwig for an online presentation and discussion of her new book, *A Neighbor Among Neighbors*, on the history of Erie Neighborhood House, Chicago's oldest settlement house. Erie Neighborhood House is one of Chicago's most enduring neighborhood institutions. Founded in 1870, this settlement house has served wave upon wave of new immigrants to Chicago. *A Neighbor Among Neighbors* reminds us of the community-building core values that settlement houses have had in welcoming immigrants to American cities, from the nineteenth century to the present day. [RSVP here.](#)



Hearing on Lending Discrimination and its Long-Term Impacts

Illinois Congressman Chuy García will be part of a hearing on February 24 at 2:00pm CST focused on the long-term impacts of lending discrimination on borrowers of color. Find out more about the hearing and find the link to watch it [here.](#)

Illinois Affordable Housing Forum

The past year has presented unique challenges for the industry. The pandemic has shone a light on countless inequities, and the importance of stable, affordable housing has become increasingly apparent. Hosted by Illinois Housing Council, the Illinois Affordable Housing Forum provides an opportunity for industry leaders to discuss common issues, share best practices, and connect with partners to advance the development and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois. [Register](#) to join IHC for three days of virtual networking, education, and the latest ideas in affordable housing March 15-17.

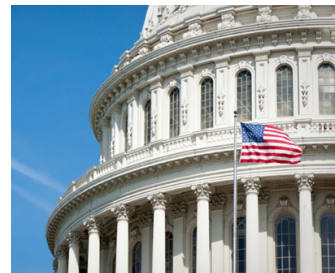
IN THE NEWS

Illinois Cities Flout Law Encouraging Affordable Housing

The unpaid, bipartisan Illinois Housing Appeals Board was formed in 2009, but was not fully appointed until 2012--and has never heard a case. The Board is part of the Illinois Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act, a law that requires cities with more than 1,000 residents and less than 10% affordable housing to submit affordable housing plans to the state; however, there is resistance. At least six eligible municipalities cite "home rule" and say they have no intention to turn in an affordable housing plan. [Read the full story from WBEZ.](#)

New Bills Support Affordable Housing

Two recent bipartisan bills introduced seek to revitalize neighborhoods and increase the inventory of move-in ready homes. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Rob Portman (R-OH) reintroduced the [Neighborhood Homes Investment Act](#) (NHIA). The bill creates a tax credit to cover the "value gap," or the gap between the home's fair market value and the acquisition/rehab or construction costs. In the House, Representatives Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) have introduced the "[Restoring Communities Left Behind Act](#)" which would make \$5 billion available to local communities through a competitive grant program for the rehabilitation of homes for owner occupancy and rental, housing counseling, property tax relief, weatherization, and improvements in the surrounding neighborhoods.



White House Memorandum on Redressing History of Discriminatory Housing

On January 26, the Biden administration released a memorandum addressing the nation and federal government's history of discriminatory housing practices and policies, stating:

"During the 20th century, Federal, State, and local governments systematically implemented racially discriminatory housing policies that contributed to segregated neighborhoods and inhibited equal opportunity and the chance to build wealth for Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Native American families, and other underserved communities. Ongoing legacies of residential segregation and discrimination remain ever-present in our society. These include a racial gap in homeownership; a persistent undervaluation of properties owned by families of color; a disproportionate burden of pollution and exposure to the impacts of climate change in communities of color; and systemic barriers to safe, accessible, and affordable housing for people of color, immigrants, individuals with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, and queer (LGBTQ+) individuals." Read the full memorandum [here](#).

About CRN

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

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