



**May 4, 2021**

**News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network**

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## UPDATES FROM CRN

### 2020 Annual Report

During a year unlike any other, CRN worked harder than ever to make affordable housing a reality for every Chicagoan. The report features highlights from 2020 at CRN, from our 25th annual Empowerment Series to new initiatives like our appraisal gap solutions working group. [Take a look!](#)



### 2021-2022 Community-Building & Outreach VISTA Position Open

CRN is seeking an AmeriCorps VISTA member for the 2021-2022 term! Beginning in fall of 2021, the Community-Building & Outreach VISTA will build the Chicago Rehab Network's capacity for outreach and communications, coalition-building, and long-term program sustainability. [Find out more and apply.](#)



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## NEWS & RESOURCES

### Evanston Reparations Strategy Begins with Housing Programs

In March, Evanston aldermen approved a housing grant program to help with mortgages, down payments, and home repairs. Designed to address discriminatory housing policies and practices faced by Black residents, it was the first expenditure in a larger reparations program. However, some residents and Alderwoman Cicely Fleming argue that direct cash payments would be the most effective and meaningful strategy. [Read more.](#)

### Preckwinkle Announces Plan for More Affordable Housing

From the Cook County Land Bank: "Declaring it time to put an end to a system that perpetuates redlining and the growth of vacant properties, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced she is joining the Cook County Land Bank Authority, Cook County Clerk Karen Yarbrough and Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer in calling for reform of the Cook County Scavenger Sale, a limit on interest rates charged to homeowners under a county lien, and a new strategic plan to recover and revitalize blighted communities. Preckwinkle joined other city and suburban leaders to support the systemic reforms proposed in the 'Homeowner Relief and Community Recovery Act.' The bill will empower communities and local governments to transform vacant properties into homes and put them back on the tax rolls while helping residents stay in their homes by reducing predatory interest rates." [Read more.](#)

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# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Project Manager Position Open at POAH

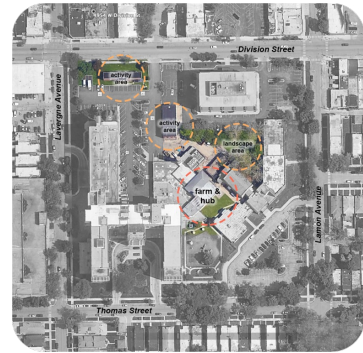
POAH is seeking a Chicago-based Project Manager to join its Real Estate Development team. With the oversight and support of one of POAH's senior development team members, project managers oversee two or more developments simultaneously, participating in project 'life' from acquisition to completion of construction and lease-up, including financial analysis, design and construction, and transfer of the completed project to the property management function. [Learn more and apply.](#)

## Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Discusses Stimulus Check Obstacles

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless was recently featured in an article highlighting the inaccessibility of stimulus checks for people experiencing homelessness. Obstacles including not having a bank account or permanent home address make it difficult to receive a stimulus check--meaning that "people who need these checks the most are having the most trouble getting them." Read the article from the Daily Northwestern [here.](#)

## Bethel New Life Designing Urban Farm and Wellness Hub

Bethel New Life is honoring the late community leader Mildred Wiley by naming an urban farm and wellness hub after her. Earlier this month, a virtual workshop was held to get input from residents on the design of the hub, which will be located in Austin. The current plan includes a campus garden, a horti-center, a park, two health and wellness areas, and a cafe, as well as garden plots for residents and a seasonal weekly farm stand. [Find out more.](#)



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## 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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