



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2011

**Contact: Kevin Jackson
Chicago Rehab Network**

Phone: 312-663-3936

E-mail: kevin@chicagorehab.org

**Chicago Rehab Network Releases *Building Our Future Chicago*
Platform Identifying solutions to strengthen neighborhoods**

**Coalition calls on City's leadership and Chicago 2011 Transition Plan to adopt
community development practices based upon decades of success**

The Chicago Rehab Network's platform lays out a solution focused plan centered on a approach to development which engages the real estate market to build sustainable communities. These values include an intentional focus on 1) long-term value-added stewardship of household success through housing and community development 2) resident involvement and community-driven partnerships and 3) local training, hiring, and resource circulation.

With over 40 years of experiential and evidence-based practice, the community development field in Chicago offers a myriad of solutions to strengthen neighborhoods, repair the damaged real estate market, and bolster the local economy through increased revenue, spending, and value-added targeting.

Our recommendations for our City's success and the new Administration are based on long-standing results working to strengthening local markets through housing development, fueling improved quality of life for community residents.

Strong concerns exist about the future of our city related to the large decrease in diversity and increasing displacement as evidenced by the over 200,000 loss of population during the last decade – 177,000 of which is a decline in the African American population. Leadership is needed to repair the consequences of ignoring the centrality of affordability in our city –from revenue loss, household stress, overcrowding, increased school mobility, homelessness, to foreclosure, and abandonment—we must discontinue random and political discretionary land use policies. The field of community development and its attention to sustainable and place-based real estate applications is poised to offer its commitment and expertise.

1. Deploy Expertise
2. Target Assets
3. Match Supply to Demand
4. Make an Affordable City
5. Invest for Sustainability

The Building our Future Chicago platform can be found at http://www.chicagorehab.org/resources/docs/policy/final_platform.pdf with accompanying Toolkit at [Building Future Chicago Toolkit](#) (15MB).

###

The Chicago Rehab Network (CRN) is a coalition of community-based development organizations. Founded in 1977 by community groups seeking to pool expertise and share information. Over the years CRN's members have created tens of thousands of affordable housing units and made a visible impact on some of Chicago's most disinvested communities, while preserving affordable housing in some of its most rapidly gentrifying ones. Visit www.chicagorehab.org for more information.