

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keeping housing affordable ***Chicago Rehab Network training focuses on housing preservation, good ownership and active residents***

Effective partnerships between owners, managers and residents of subsidized housing will be the focus of an Oct. 30 day-long training convened by the Chicago Rehab Network. Participants will include federal housing officials and owners and management companies that receive federal money to keep apartments affordable.

“We believe it is possible for owners, managers and tenants to work together to create the conditions necessary for decent places to live and a thriving housing business,” said Kevin Jackson, Chicago Rehab Network executive director. The training is designed to help managers and owners understand new federal guidelines for tenant occupancy and tenant participation in organizing. A presentation will also be devoted to Illinois’ housing preservation law, which gives tenants the right to buy properties that opt-out of subsidized programs.

“Without active tenant participation it is virtually impossible to preserve affordable housing. We estimate that 9,000 units of 12,400 units could be lost by 2010, in Chicago alone, unless federally restricted mortgages and contracts are renewed. These federally subsidized apartments are not linked to individual housing vouchers, but are kept affordable by the contracts between owners and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,” said Jackson.

One goal of the training is to help owners understand the benefits of tenant participation and to acquaint owners with other affordable housing stakeholders interested in supporting efforts to maintain affordable housing programs.

The day-long training is scheduled for tomorrow at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in the second floor ballroom. The hotel is located at 2233 South Martin L. King Drive in Chicago.

“We must protect affordable housing and the investment of public money made over the past 30 years. Affordable housing is a resource and needs to be preserved. It’s in the best interest of owners, managers and residents to work together,” Jackson said.

For more information, please contact Richard Muhammad at 773-616-5058 (cell phone) today and tomorrow.

The Chicago Rehab Network (CRN) is a citywide coalition of community-based development organizations. Founded in 1977 by community groups seeking to pool expertise and share information, the coalition membership consists of over 40 housing organizations representing over 60 city neighborhoods. 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.

