

Chicago Rehab Network

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# HOUSING ADVOCACY ALERT

## CALL TO ACTION: CHA Proposes New Site and Neighborhood Rule for Voucher Holders

CHA's Public Comment Period: Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006

The Chicago Housing Authority has released its proposed revisions to the Housing Choice Voucher Program's Site and Neighborhood Policy, which **prevents voucher holders from moving onto blocks with three or more "unsafe" vacant lots and buildings on either side of the street.** While the revisions exempt buildings "actively under construction," these still leave behind tens of thousands of vacant properties across Chicago's communities.

The Chicago Rehab Network has called for this policy to be reversed. Our position is:

*This policy penalizes revitalizing neighborhoods.* By removing resources and residents, this policy undermines existing government investments in neighborhoods, and restricts affordable housing growth.

*The policy is discriminatory.* Targeting vacancy disparately impacts minority communities, and violates fair housing principles. CHA's revisions have simply substituted a policy of broad redlining with discriminatory guidelines.

*The policy severely restricts housing choice.* This policy removes the power of choice from the hands of residents in the voucher program, and exchanges it for authoritarian measures that remove residents from the communities of their choice.

## Take Action Today!

A united and organized voice is the only way to overturn this rule. Draft your comments immediately and send them to these government monitoring agencies:

HUD's local **Office of Fair Housing** is currently receiving comments and complaints. Call (312) 353-7776 (ext. 2453) or write to:

Chicago Regional Office of FHEO  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2101  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

The **Chicago Housing Authority** has instituted an official public comment period from Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Send your comments to:

Chicago Housing Authority  
Management Analyst & Planning Office  
626 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60661

The **Department of Human Relations** investigates cases of discrimination anywhere in Chicago:  
Commission on Human Relations  
740 North Sedgwick Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60610

For more information, contact Lindsay at (312) 663-3936 or [Lindsay@chicagorehab.org](mailto:Lindsay@chicagorehab.org). If you know of a tenant who has been rejected by this rule, refer them to CRN for assistance in filling a complaint with HUD's FHEO. To view **CRN's official comments to the CHA**, visit [www.chicagorehab.org](http://www.chicagorehab.org).