



Updates from CRN

April 4, 2019



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Spots are Filling Up for the Empowerment Series!

This month, CRN's Community Development and Empowerment Series will return for its 24th year! Learn to be a leader in improving the quality of life in your community. The Empowerment Series uses practical tools and real-world knowledge of practitioners to teach you how to effect positive change in communities through housing development and is designed for staff and board members of community-based affordable housing development organizations, government employees, community bankers, small neighborhood developers, and elected officials and their staff.

You can sign up for individual classes or take all eight. Participants who attend the entire series receive a certificate of completion that is well-known and respected by community development and affordable housing practitioners and advocates.

One two-day workshop is held every month, April-July and September-December, 9:00 am-4:30 pm at CRN's training facility, 140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1420 (unless otherwise noted).

[Explore workshops and register on our brand-new website!](#)

About CRN

Who We Are:

For 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

CRN Celebrates Empowerment Series Graduates

Thank you to all who joined us on March 20th to celebrate our Community Development and Empowerment Series graduates! Keynote speaker and long-time housing advocate Congressman Chuy García shared his own journey as a graduate of the Empowerment Series and spoke about the opportunities and challenges graduates will face moving forward in the housing field. Joined by family, friends, and colleagues, 19 graduates were awarded diplomas by Congressman García, CRN Executive Director Kevin Jackson, and CRN Board President Joy Aruguete. We are proud of all that our graduates have accomplished and can't wait to see the impacts they will make for Illinois communities in the future! Congratulations to:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Maria Ayala | Libby Julia-Vazquez | April Morris |
| Demetrius Bonner | Emmanuel Kinard | Shavion Scott |
| Alexis Butler | Amy Kunz | Ami Shah |
| Rachel Caldwell | Shelbie Luna | Josh Stillman |
| Allison Milld Clements | Nikkitta McCoy | Athena Williams |
| Sarah Gold | Pedro Morales Jr. | Patricia Wilson |
| Jasmine Gunn | | |



CRN Executive Director Kevin Jackson, Congressman Chuy García, Empowerment Series graduate and Illinois Housing Council Executive Director Allison Milld Clements, and CRN Board President Joy Aruguete.

Support our Mission:
With your help, we can build strong neighborhoods, strengthen capacity, and foster community leadership.

DONATE TODAY!

CRN thanks our generous supporters:



POLK BROS FOUNDATION
A foundation for Chicago families



The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust



CRN Director of Operations Rachel Johnston with Empowerment Series graduates Anthony Mosely, Emmanuel Kinard, Jasmine Gunn, and Nikkitta McCoy.



Empowerment Series instructor Angela Hurlock (second from left) with students Rachel Caldwell, Jasmine Gunn, Josh Stillman, and Whittney Smith.

Save the Date

Undesign the Redline

Undesign the Redline, an interactive exhibit connecting the intentional and systematic racial housing segregation of the 1930s to political and social issues of today, will travel between several different locations in Chicago through November. Currently, it is located at the National Public Housing Museum. Learn more about the exhibit and how to visit [here](#).



Woodstock Institute Community Investment Awards



The Woodstock Institute will hold their 2019 Community Investment Awards reception on Thursday, May 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Honorees will be announced soon. [RSVP here.](#)

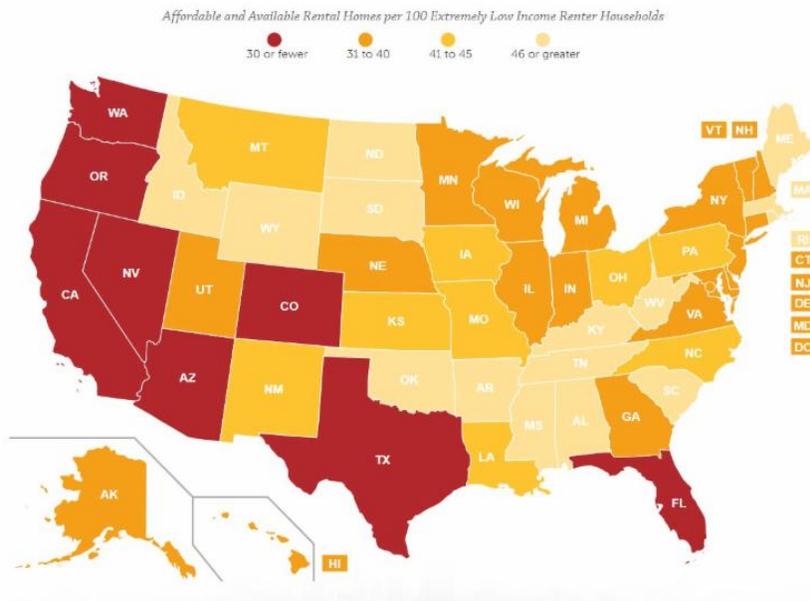
The Plunder of Black Wealth in Chicago

On Thursday, May 30, the Federal Reserve Bank will host a symposium featuring the release of a study and documentary about the history of predatory housing contracts and their role in Chicago's racial wealth divide. RSVP by May 13 to mclennonconsulting@gmail.com or 773-524-1007. [Check out the event flyer to learn more.](#)

In the News

The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Rental Homes

The National Low Income Housing Coalition has released its annual report on the shortage of affordable rental homes. The report finds a shortage of 7 million homes for extremely low-income renters, with no state having an adequate supply of low-income rental housing. Read the report [here.](#)



Representative Will Guzzardi is sponsoring a [resolution](#) that calls for \$1 billion in capital budget funding for affordable housing, supported by CRN and other partners in the housing field. From a fact sheet about the resolution:

"Housing is our State's most important social and economic infrastructure; nearly one in three Illinois families struggles with housing costs; over half of our State's renters need an affordable home, including over half of seniors who rent their homes; we face a critical shortage of an estimated 23,000 supportive housing units for our most vulnerable populations, those who are veterans, disabled, and/or at risk of homelessness."

Read the full text [here](#).

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