



August 19, 2020 | News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

## UPDATES FROM CRN

### The Empowerment Series Begins Next Month!

Beginning in September, you can learn technical skills for affordable housing development from expert local practitioners without leaving your house. The Community Development and Empowerment Series, CRN's comprehensive affordable housing development educational workshop series, will be held from September 2020 to April 2021.

Whether you work at a non-profit developer and want to improve your technical skills, are looking for a career change in affordable housing, or anything in between, workshops focused on each step of the development process will prepare you to be a leader in bringing greater affordability to your community. More than ever, a strong network of advocates building and preserving affordable housing is vital to the health and well-being of our communities. We look forward to (virtually) seeing you soon!

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### Property Tax Relief Workshop

Operating budgets do predict annual increases in expenses, but recent increases in tax bills exceed the ability of many owners to pay. Despite the nonprofit sector providing affordable housing consistent with public goals and resource priorities, CDCs still have no effective way to protect properties from this skyrocketing expense. With missions and restrictions on increasing rents, few options exist beyond cutting back on services, maintenance, and capital improvements. Join CRN for a workshop on property tax relief with Bill Skalitzky of Applegate Thorne-Thomsen who will be presenting on the charitable use exemptions process.

**Thursday, August 20**  
**9:00am | Zoom Webinar**

**REGISTER**

Do you work at a non-profit that owns housing and has seen an increase in property taxes? CRN is collaborating with our membership to best advocate for equitable tax policy. [Send us an email](#) or Tweet about your experience at [@chirehabnetwork](#).

### Committee on Housing and Real Estate Meeting August 26

On August 26 at 10am, the Committee on Housing and Real Estate will review the Department of Housing's reports [analyzing affordable housing production and funding in the fourth quarter of 2019](#) as well as [the first quarter of 2020](#). CRN's analysis of these reports will be released soon. Highlights from the reports include:

- Three new affordable developments were built during 2019-Q4
- New ARO units were planned in both 2019-Q4 and 2020-Q1
- The majority of units produced both quarters are available to households at 51-60% AMI
- 947 total net-new units were built or rehabbed in 2019

You can find all of DOH's quarterly reports on [their website](#). Find the meeting notice [here](#).

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## RESOURCES & UPCOMING EVENTS

### Housing Matters Conference

Housing Action Illinois is partnering with the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA) to present their annual Housing Matters! Conference as part of the [Strengthening Resilient Communities forum](#) October 13-15. In addition to robust Illinois programming, Housing Action be hosting five plenary sessions with top national speakers—such as a keynote address by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Antiracist*. In addition to joining the Illinois sessions on

October 13-15, you can participate in other virtual state community development conferences taking place October 13-23. [Learn more and register.](#)

## IHDA Resources

This month, IHDA is launching two assistance programs for Illinois residents, including [Emergency Rental Assistance](#) from August 10 to August 28 ([headline extended by Governor Pritzker](#)) and [Emergency Mortgage Assistance](#) beginning August 24. IHDA has \$150 million available for the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program and will provide \$5,000 grants per household. IHDA has shared an information toolkit on the ERA/EMA programs which includes:

- [Emergency Rental Assistance](#) and [Emergency Mortgage Assistance](#) flyers
- [Emergency Rental Assistance](#) and [Emergency Mortgage Assistance](#) FAQs
- [Emergency Rental Assistance FAQ in Spanish](#)
- [Links to PSAs](#)
- [How to Apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance](#)
- [Coronavirus Relief Fund Background Information](#)

## Cook County Rental Assistance Extended

The COVID-19 Rental Assistance Application timeline has been extended to August 24th at 4:00pm due to the recent weather scenarios that left portions of the County's residents without power and other services for an extended period. [Apply here](#) or find further information in [English](#), [Spanish](#), or [Polish](#).

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## IN THE NEWS

### Illinois Housing Blueprint

From IHDA: "The Housing Blueprint is a statewide planning endeavor that will develop a vision for the future of housing in Illinois, and lay out a plan for achieving it. The Blueprint is coordinated by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), however it is a product of the collective participation and collaboration of a wide and diverse group of agencies, organizations, and residents from across the state.

Together, these groups have committed to sharing their perspectives, knowledge, and expertise to link to and leverage existing efforts already underway. The Blueprint also strives to engage and raise the voices of all Illinoisans to understand the realities, needs, and hopes for housing within communities both now and in the future. Repeated on an annual basis, the Housing Blueprint provides an opportunity to reflect on our state's past impacts and achievements, assess opportunities for growth and change, and continually engage residents to be more inclusive of and relevant to the many communities throughout our state. We invite all individuals to take part in the Blueprint's process."



Learn more about the Housing Blueprint and take a community survey [here](#).

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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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