



August 14, 2023
News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

UPDATES FROM CRN

Save the Date: The Empowerment Series Begins Again in September

The 2023-2024 Community Development & Empowerment Series begins next month! 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. Offered every year, the Series 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.



The Empowerment Series begins with Community Building September 6th and September 8th. The first in the series, this workshop will present the community assets perspective as a model for community planning. Through looking at strategies employed by community-based development organizations, we will discuss the elements beyond bricks and mortar that community building requires. The class is taught by Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation CEO Joy Aruguete and includes a tour to local development sites. Reserve your spot today!

REGISTER

NEWS & RESOURCES

Funding Available for Permanent Supportive Housing

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) has announced the availability of funding under the [Permanent Supportive Housing \(PSH\) Development Program](#) with option for [Healthy Housing, Healthy Communities \(H3C\)](#). Financing is available for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and/or new construction of PSH projects that serve the most vulnerable populations and that offer flexible, voluntary supportive services designed to increase housing stability. Additionally, projects with investment from a healthcare partner that address a community health need are encouraged to apply for PSH/H3C financing or for H3C financing only.

Interested applicants should complete and email a Concept Meeting Intake Form to IHDA at PSHRFA@ihda.org to request a project concept meeting. Concept Meeting Intake Forms are available on [IHDA's website](#) and requests will be accepted on a rolling basis through October 6. Meetings will be scheduled between August 21 and October 13. All interested applicants MUST schedule a project concept meeting.

Suit Filed Over Predatory Home Sales Tactics Used on Low-Income Consumers

The City has filed a civil lawsuit against Vision Property Management, LLC, its successor FTE Networks, Inc., and affiliates for committing deceptive and unfair practices in the course of selling and leasing properties to predominantly low-income Chicagoans. The complaint, which was filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County, alleges that Vision Properties lured vulnerable consumers to sign exploitative “rent-to-own” agreements for dilapidated properties. As part of the scheme, Vision Properties trapped buyers in illegal contracts that obscured the financial terms of the purchase, failed to disclose the true condition of the properties, and shifted repair and maintenance responsibilities to the buyers while treating them as tenants. Vision Properties also charged consumers for the property taxes on their homes but failed to remit those payments to the County, causing some Chicagoans to lose their homes through property tax sales...“Chicagoans trying desperately to achieve the American dream of homeownership should never, ever be subject to predatory behavior from unscrupulous firms like these,” said Mayor Brandon Johnson. [Read more.](#)

Volunteers of America Looking for Senior Director of Community Real Estate Development

The Community Real Estate Development Director is responsible for driving and managing the organization’s community real estate development activities in targeted communities in which VOA of IL has a substantial investment with a significant concentration in affordable housing development. The position requires strong real estate development experience, a genuine commitment and passion for creating equitable developments with strong community benefit and the capacity to build relationships with a wide range of stakeholders. [Learn more.](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

POAH Breaks Ground on Fifth City Commons

Congratulations to POAH on breaking ground on Fifth City Commons in July! Joined by Alderman Jason Ervin and Mayor Brandon Johnson, POAH celebrated their new affordable green housing and retail development in historic East Garfield Park. The development — named Fifth City for the area of East Garfield Park it’s in — will bring dozens of rental units and thousands of square feet of retail space to a site a half-mile from the CTA’s Green Line. [Find out more.](#)



Congratulations to Patricia Abrams on Her Retirement

Friends and colleagues joined together to celebrate the retirement of CRN Board Member Pat Abrams from her role as Executive Director of The Renaissance Collaborative on July 6th. You can read Pat’s note announcing her retirement [here](#). We are thankful for her years of leadership at TRC and look forward to her continued partnership on our Board!



LUCHA Breaks Ground on Encuentro Square Phase I

Congratulations to LUCHA on breaking ground on a new development last week! Phase I of Encuentro Square is a two-building, multi-family development and will provide 89 affordable units for those with incomes at or below 60% of the Chicago Area Median Income (AMI). Encuentro’s amenities will include a community services lobby and community room, a teaching kitchen, on-site management offices, bike storage, a

children's room, and lounge and courtyard. Community support services will also be available to tenants, including home-based head start in partnership with the Children's Place Association, as well as financial training and counseling. [Read more.](#)



Want to be featured in our newsletter? If you have an event, announcement, or resource to share, [let us know!](#)

About CRN

For 45 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.

DONATE

Support our Mission

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

Find us on social media:



CRN thanks our generous supporters and event sponsors:





Chicago Rehab Network | 140 S. Dearborn St., Suite 1420, Chicago, IL 60603

[Unsubscribe rachel@chicagorehab.org](mailto:rachel@chicagorehab.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by jennifer@chicagorehab.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!