



February 28, 2022 News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

UPDATES FROM CRN

Be a leader for affordable housing! The Empowerment Series Continues in March

The 2021-2022 Community Development and Empowerment Series continues in March with Project and Construction Management taught by Claretian Associates Executive Director Angela Hurlock. Creating quality affordable housing requires knowledge of construction that includes knowing how to choose a project team, how to manage contracts, and how to closeout the project. The class will be broken into three days on Zoom: Tuesday March 1 9am-12pm, Friday March 4 9am-12pm, and Friday March 11 9am-12pm.



[REGISTER](#)

RSVP for CRN's Upcoming Network Meeting

On March 10, join CRN and our network to hear updates from the field and strategize for the year ahead. Discussion will include American Rescue Plan Act resources, property tax policy, and the Appraisal Equity Campaign. We are pleased to announce two featured guests: [Frank Woodruff](#), Executive Director of NACEDA, will share information about NACEDA's research with the Urban Institute into the financial health, programs, production, and services of community-based development organizations (CBDOs) throughout the United States, as well as national housing updates. Cook County Assessor [Fritz Kaegi](#) will discuss his office's affordable housing programming and the racial tax assessment gap. All CRN members, partners, and supporters are welcome!

[REGISTER](#)

Take the Appraisal Incident Survey

Did you receive a home appraisal during the purchase, sale, or refinancing of your home that came in much lower than you expected? Did you encounter outright or subtle discrimination in the process of your home appraisal? You are not alone. Many families across the country have faced similar experiences, resulting in the significant devaluation of homes and neighborhoods of color.

CRN's Appraisal Equity Task Force is committed to establishing leadership and policies to address decades of undervaluation that have hindered wealth attainment in communities of color. Historically-

redlined communities in Chicago have been systematically denied access to insurance, fair financing, and banking services which, in concert with biased appraisals, have resulted in a loss of household and community wealth and spending power. Our work is addressing improvements to protect consumers, reform of the appraisal system, and reparations for impacted neighborhoods and residents. [Learn more and take the survey.](#)

Take a Trip Down Memory Lane with CRN

As we gear up to celebrate our 45th anniversary this year, we'll be taking you back in time with us as we look back at CRN publications through the years. First up is a newsletter from July 1981 that covers topics like displacement in Wicker Park and Reaganomics--and reminds us that over 40 years later, we're still dealing with many of the same issues. [Take a look!](#)

SWEAT-EQUITY COOPERATIVE UNDERWAY IN SOUTH SHORE

The closing documents are all signed, contracts have been inked and the sweat-equity co-operators have begun their work alongside experienced tradespeople as the rehab project at 7511-S South Merrill moves into its heavy masonry construction phase. Sponsored by The Neighborhood Institute's South Shore Housing Center, the Genesis Cooperative will provide 22 units of new housing for low and moderate income families later this year.



NEWS & RESOURCES

Homeowner Assistance Fund

Applications for ILHAF will be accepted beginning in April 2022. Program information and updates can be found at illinoishousinghelp.org. Prior to being eligible to apply in April, potential applicants must demonstrate they have either communicated with their mortgage provider about their inability to pay or sought counseling with a HUD-approved counseling organization. The U.S. Department of the Treasury views this assistance to be used as a "last resort." Interested homeowners are strongly encouraged attend an information session to learn what you need to do to be ready to apply. The information sessions will be offered in English and Spanish. [Learn more and register for an information session.](#)

DPD Vacant Lots Survey

The Chicago Department of Planning and Development has created a survey to gather information from community stakeholders about the approximately 10,000 vacant lots that the City of Chicago owns. Survey questions will explore your awareness and perceptions of vacant City lots in your neighborhood, and also how the lots are made available for private buyers to purchase. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Responses to this survey do not affect consideration of any future application or offer to purchase City-owned vacant lots. DPD is providing stipends to participants of focus groups that will convene this spring to discuss vacant City lots. If you are interested in participating in a focus group, please provide your contact information at the end of the survey. DPD or its project partner, MUSE Community + Design, will follow up with you to coordinate participation. [Take the survey.](#)

Legally Stolen: Episode 3 from the National Public Housing Museum

Legally Stolen is a 3-episode podcast produced by the National Public Housing Museum and Artist as Instigator Tonika Lewis Johnson as part of her project, Inequity for Sale, a virtual and physical exploration of homes sold on Land Sale Contracts in the 50s and 60s. Episode Three focuses on Chicago's fight for fair housing and racial justice, including redress for legalized theft from Black people and communities impacted by predatory real estate practices. Featured guests include lead researcher of the Plunder of Black Wealth in Chicago report Amber Hendley, housing activist Athena Williams, author of Family Properties Beryl Satter, and author of The Color of Law Richard Rothstein. Listen or read the transcript [here](#).



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

RSVP for [POAH's roundtable discussion](#) sponsored by CRN:





POAH Invites You to a Roundtable Discussion with Community Leaders

From the Ground Up: A Decade of Community-Informed Development in Woodlawn

**March 3, 2022
1:30 – 3:00pm CST**

Online Webinar and Roundtable

Available by Zoom, Facebook, & CANTV

Join us to hear the results of research focused on a decade of public and private investment fueled by the federal Choice Neighborhoods Initiative— and how that experience may inform future comprehensive community redevelopment.

Click [here](#) to register and/or to receive report (after the session).

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Want to be featured in our newsletter? If your organization is a CRN member and you have an event, announcement, or resource to share, [let us know!](#)

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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