



June 2, 2023

News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

UPDATES FROM CRN

Congratulations Empowerment Series Graduates!

Thank you to all who joined us on May 18 at the V. Collective Rooftop to celebrate 25 years of the Community Development & Empowerment Series and our recent Empowerment Series graduates! We had an amazing evening recognizing our students, instructors, and everyone else who has helped make the Series an invaluable resource for Chicago's affordable development field for so many years. Special thanks to IHDA Director Kristin Faust, DOH Commissioner Marisa Novara, and Illinois HUD Field Representative Kimberly Danna for sharing opening remarks and helping with conferring of the graduate certificates. We were also honored to recognize CRN's Rachel Johnston not only as being the founder of the Empowerment Series but also for her continued commitment to growing and improving the Series over 25 years.

Want to be part of this impactful program? Keep an eye out for information about our next Empowerment Series launching this fall!



New Real Estate Appraisal Complaint Form

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's Division of Real Estate has announced the addition of several new, specific complaint forms to their website, including a Real Estate Appraisal Complaint form. The Division of Real Estate (DRE) will investigate complaints to determine if there has been unlawful or unprofessional conduct by a real estate appraiser. This is one of many resources our Appraisal Equity Campaign has fought for as a response to racially biased appraisals. Learn more about [the ability to file a complaint](#) and the [Appraisal Equity Campaign](#).

CRN Membership Dues

CRN members: don't forget to return your membership dues! You should have received a dues packet earlier this year. Please mail your dues to 140 S Dearborn St. Suite 1420, Chicago, IL 60603 or email them to debra@chicagorehab.org. Contact debra@chicagorehab.org with any questions!

NEWS & RESOURCES

Illinois HFA1 Now Open

IHDA has announced the latest program in their suite of lending products, Illinois HFA1. This will be a deferred down payment/closing cost assistance program developed in conjunction with 13 other housing authorities and The National Council of State Housing Authorities (NCSHA). The goal is to create a toolkit that could be adopted nationwide by state housing authorities, to make it easier for lenders to use HFA products. It aims to make the documents, guidelines, and assistance as uniform as possible, no matter what state you originate in. [Learn more.](#)

What to Expect at a Chicago City Council Meeting

As new mayor Brandon Johnson and numerous new alderpeople begin their tenure at City Hall, there is increased attention on the meetings where City Council business takes place. [This article](#) from the Better Government Association gives detailed guidelines about how to follow along at a City Council meeting and what to expect, from committee reports to voting.



Habitat for Humanity Job Opening

Our partners at Habitat for Humanity are seeking a new Partnerships Specialist. The Partnerships Specialist works across teams to help deliver a high-quality experience to volunteers and donors. The Partnerships Specialist manages groups in the moves management process, cultivates and stewards' mid-level corporate donors, and prepares compelling proposals. [Find out more.](#)

New Brief on State-Level Tenant Protections Enacted Since Pandemic

NLIHC has released a brief highlighting the efforts of state-level lawmakers to pass tenant protections that keep renters stably housed and prevent unjust discrimination and harassment. The brief, "The State of Statewide Protections," provides in-depth summaries of common tenant protections, details the challenges faced by lawmakers enacting protections, and offers recommendations for developing and implementing laws aiming to protect renters over the long term. Tenant protections are laws and policies meant to ensure that renter households are able to maintain safe, affordable, and accessible housing and live free from the threat of eviction. Though many types of protections exist, the brief focuses on five protections that aim to divert evictions: (1) the civil right to counsel; (2) measures prohibiting source-of-income discrimination; (3) eviction record sealing and expungement legislation; (4) rent stabilization and anti-rent gouging legislation; and (5) "just cause" eviction laws. Find the brief [here](#).

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Homebuyer and Landlord Workshops

Spanish Coalition for Housing hosts numerous workshops including first-time homebuyer orientations and trainings and certifications for new landlords. Both in-person and virtual workshops are coming up during the month of June. [Find out more and register for a workshop.](#)

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.

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