



# News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

## **UPDATES FROM CRN**

The Empowerment Series Continues in December with Sources of Development Financing
The Community Development and Empowerment Series will continue next month with four Sources of
Development Financing workshops beginning December 1 taught by <a href="Yittayih Zelalem">Yittayih Zelalem</a>, Co-Director of the
Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement Developing affordable
housing is a challenging process that requires the layering of financing to achieve the goal of affordability.
This workshop will familiarize participants with the mechanics of securing development capital, debt and
equity financing, grants and subsidies.

# **RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW**

#### Illinois Counties Affordable Housing Fact Book Out Now

CRN's brand-new county-by-county Affordable Housing Fact Sheets are out now! Produced in partnership with the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Fact Sheets explore demographic and housing market trends in all 102 Illinois counties, including changes in household income, cost-burdened households, rental housing costs, and more. Below, a snapshot of the data shows us how cost burden has become more prevalent among middle-income Cook County renters in the last decade:

### COST BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME LEVEL

	RENTERS		
INCOME LEVEL	2010	2018	8 YEAR CHANGE
Less than \$19,999	90.61%	88.58%	-2.24%
\$20,000-\$49,999	60.17%	67.75%	12.60%
\$50,000-\$74,999	13.27%	24.12%	81.74%
\$75,000 or More	3.45%	4.53%	31.21%

Explore data for all 102 counties and download PDFs for each county on our website. Chicago community area and ward Fact Books coming soon!

# **Autumn Meeting Held November 12**

On November 12, CRN gathered with our members and partners to share updates on our work and the work of affordable housing stakeholders around the city. The meeting featured a conversation with CHA CEO Tracey Scott, who engaged with attendees' questions regarding topics including streamlining the housing process for CHA residents, paths to homeownership, and housing growth and recovery amidst the pandemic. Couldn't make it? <a href="Check out our presentation from the meeting">Check out our presentation from the meeting</a> for an overview of what we discussed and updates on CRN's work.

#### Welcome to Debra Claybron

Earlier this year, CRN welcomed Debra Claybron to our office as a consultant. Ms. Claybron is the President and Founder of DC & Associates, a consultant company specializing in assisting non-profit organizations and small businesses to build capacity to promote sustainable economic and human development. Ms. Claybron has a M.S. degree in Human Services Administration – Affordable Housing Development from Spertus College and a B.A. in Business Management from Northeastern University. In June 2018, she resigned as Executive Director of Voice of the People in Uptown, Inc. (VOICE), a not-for-profit affordable housing organization that has



been rooted in the Uptown community for 50 years. She served in the capacity of Executive Director of VOP for 15 years and dedicated her time and energy to promote VOICE's Mission of providing decent and quality housing to families, seniors and individuals. In one of the last gentrifying areas located along Chicago's legendary Northshore area under Ms. Claybron's leadership, VOICE successfully saved 16 buildings from being converted to condos and uprooting many low-income families from their homes.

Ms. Claybron served as a Board Officer for CRN/Chicago Rehab Network, a prominent coalition of community-based housing organizations promoting public policy/advocacy, research and technical assistance to contribute to Chicago's affordable housing movement. Moreover, she serves on a Board for MYTT/Mentoring Youth Through Technology, a start-up non-profit developed to teach and mentor children in robotics, coding, software and critical thinking skills.

Over the years, she has received numerous certificates in housing, property management and construction validating her more than 25+ years in community development, fiscal management, established skills in programmatic and asset management. Welcome aboard, Debra!

# **EVENTS & RESOURCES**

#### 2020 Chicago Housing Association Briefing

On Friday, November 20 at 10:00am, the U.S. Census Bureau cordially invites you to attend the 2020 Chicago Housing Association Briefing. The aim is to provide an overview of the Census Bureau's ongoing surveys and the vital role property managers and owners



play in encouraging cooperation for legally required surveys that shape resources for tenants and communities. This Briefing is designed to inform and to answer questions you may have regarding ongoing surveys, management responsibilities and your rental communities.

Survey responses inform planners, policy makers, and community stakeholders about the conditions and changes of those living in the United States. Local communities depend on information from surveys to decide where critical services are needed and to determine the distribution of billions of federal dollars annually for important federal programs. <u>Join the meeting at this link</u> or call in to (872) 888-6261 with code 686-616-119#. Confirm your attendance via email to <u>Ambar.Flores@2020census.gov</u>.

# Evictions & Foreclosure During COVID-19: What Housing Counselors Should Know

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, guidance and legislation related to evictions and foreclosures are constantly changing. Local and state governments, the Federal Housing Administration, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are issuing regular updates and new rules. Join Housing Action Illinois to get the latest information and learn about practical organizational procedures you can put in place to help navigate this rapidly changing landscape. Sessions will be held on December 8 and 10 at 10:00-11:30am. Learn more and register.

#### **Eviction Moratorium to Continue with Conditions**

As of last week, a new executive order by Governor Pritzker requires tenants to declare eligibility in order to continue being covered by the eviction moratorium. The declaration form includes stipulations regarding income, risk of homelessness, and ability to make payments. Find the Tenant Declaration form here and FAQs here.

#### **Advancing Equity in Banking**

Chicago City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin and Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs hosted a follow-up last week to their June 19 virtual town hall with the Advancing Equity in Banking Commission (AEBC), where bank executives reported their investments in bridging the racial wealth gap and how they can continue to do more.

Since the first meeting, held on Juneteenth, several of the banks that are members of the AEBC have committed to more than \$30 billion to advance racial equity and implement sustainable solutions to systemic racism in the banking industry. The AEBC is continuing to encourage the banks to do more to drive systemic change for communities that have been historically underserved by banking institutions. Watch the video below to hear more details on the commitments from these banks.



## **NHS Rental Assistance**

Chicago's office of Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) is administering COVID relief applications and support to qualifying owners and tenants on a first-come, first-serve basis. This grant program is intended for Chicago residents whose household has been impacted by the economic fallout from COVID-19, including people who have lost their jobs due to being laid-off or furloughed, as well as people who have retained their jobs but have had their hours or wages severely reduced. The maximum amount of assistance is \$2,500. Find out more.



## Governor's Office of Management and Budget Five Year Forecast

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has resulted in unexpected and dramatic revenue losses, and Illinois will also continue to face significant financial challenges until it finds a long-term solution to its long standing structural deficit, according to the annual Economic and Fiscal Policy Report from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. As a result of these recent challenges and with the option for a graduated income tax now off the table, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget is projecting sizable deficits in the General Funds budget for fiscal years 2022 through 2026. Without changes to the current trajectory of the state's finances, year-end accounts payable will continue to grow year by year. Read the report.

#### **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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