



Updates from CRN

December 17, 2018

This Holiday Season, Help Support Development Without Displacement

It's the last NetworkNews of 2018! Before we return in 2019 to bring you the latest news about CRN, Chicago's community development field, and local and national housing policy, please consider making a donation to support our work. Here at CRN and across the city, we're gearing up for a big year in housing--and we want you to be a part of it! With your help, we can build strong neighborhoods, strengthen capacity, and empower leaders.

[Make a tax-deductible year-end contribution today!](#)



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Five Year Housing Plan Passes at City Hall

After passing through the Committee on Housing and Real Estate on December 6th, the [Five Year Housing Plan, One Chicago](#), was approved by the full City Council on December 12th. During the Committee meeting, housing advocates and aldermen expressed concern over a failure to significantly increase funding for this next Plan, despite its commitment to addressing displacement and disinvestment in Chicago's neighborhoods. CRN echoed these concerns in our [letter to the Committee](#), commending the City for focusing on housing inequity but calling for an increase in resources. Alderman Deb Mell of the 33rd Ward was the only member of City Council to vote against the Plan on December 12th.

About CRN

Who We Are:

For 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.

Save the Date

Leveraging Opportunity Zones for Community Benefit

As Opportunity Zones become increasingly relevant for state and local economic development, we must ensure that these investments yield the maximum benefit for communities and especially low-to-moderate income residents. In January, the Urban Institute and partners will host a discussion exploring how Chicago and Cook County can leverage Opportunity Zones. Learn more and register [here](#).



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In the News

Ban on Aggressive Panhandling Repealed

Last month, City Council repealed a Chicago law banning "aggressive panhandling" following a campaign by groups including the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, the ACLU, and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. Advocates noted that the repeal is an "important victory for people in Chicago who panhandle as a means of survival," many of whom are homeless. Read the Sun-Times coverage [here](#).

CHA's Public Housing and Project Based Voucher Site-Based Waitlists are Open

As of December 12, these waitlists are open indefinitely. The re-opened waitlists have several changes: applicants can now select one site/property from both the public housing and PBV waitlists and can change their waitlist selection as many times as needed while maintaining their original application date. Find more information on [the CHA's website](#).

