



Updates from CRN

August 14, 2019



Students from July's Sources of Financing workshop with instructor Yittayih Zelalem of the Voorhees Center at UIC.

Empowerment Series Continues in September

Do you want to learn technical skills for affordable development from Chicago's community development leaders? **The Empowerment Series continues September 19-20** with Single Family Housing Development taught by Teresa Prim of Prim Lawrence Group and Linda Greene of Lucas Greene Associates. The process of developing single family housing will be discussed both in terms of the technical skills involved, and in terms of maximizing production to meet community needs. Assembling the development team, acquiring property, securing financing, and marketing will be examined in detail.

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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

CRN in the News: Agreement Hard to Find on ARO

The July 24 Bisnow Chicago article "City Wants to Change Controversial Affordable Housing Ordinance, but Agreement is Hard to Find" by Brian Rogal highlights the difficulty of finding common ground between housing advocates and developers. CRN Director of Operations Rachel Johnston lends her expertise to the article in a call for increased funding for and attention to affordable housing: "We're not an anti-development organization, and the ARO is also not anti-development, and at the very least, it forces a conversation about affordable housing and forces private developers to think more about it." Read the article [here](#).

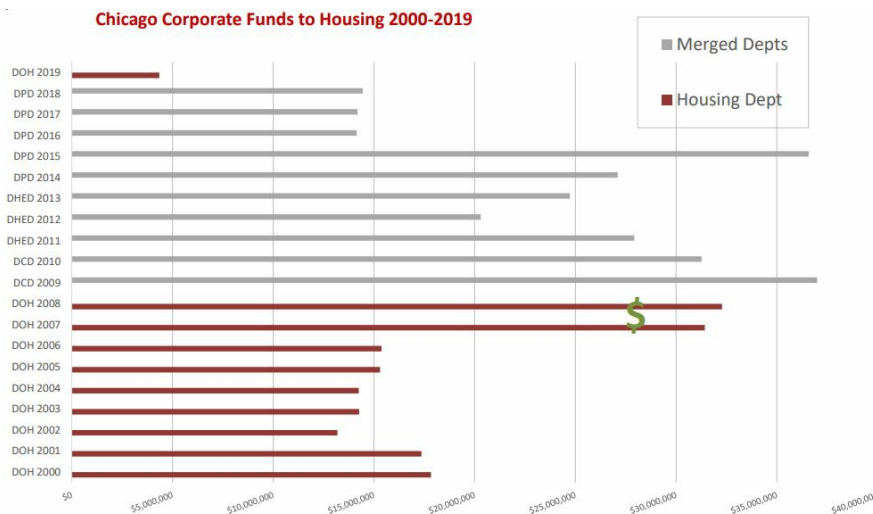
CRN in the News: Qualified Allocation Plan will Change How Tax Credits are Used

Chicago has "a bigger problem than we have resources" for, according to new Housing Commissioner Marisa Novara in the August 6 Sun-Times article ["City looks to boost affordable housing by changing how it doles out \\$60M in tax credits"](#) by Fran Spielman. CRN Director of Operations Rachel Johnston again shares her perspective in this article, hoping that the City "can find some innovative resources to expand and preserve affordable rental housing" in conjunction with the new Qualified Allocation Plan, [which is currently released as a draft](#). Rachel states that the plan is a "great start," but the City will need to continue to improve its housing stock.

Residents can submit comments to HousingDevelopment@cityofchicago.org. A public meeting on the proposed QAP will take place from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019 in Room 1103A of City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St.

CRN Analysis of 2018Q4 and 2019Q1

Last month, CRN released our analysis of the Department of Housing's [2018 fourth quarter](#) and [2019 first quarter](#) progress reports. [CRN's report](#) looks ahead to the future of the new [One Chicago](#) Housing Plan and retrospectively at the [Bouncing Back](#) Housing Plan, and calls for greater funding moving forward. Find a snapshot from Appendix 1 of the report below, demonstrating that the new DOH is operating at its lowest corporate funding since 2000, receiving only \$4 million--while in 2008, the last time the City had an independent DOH, corporate funds came in at \$32 million. [Read the full report here.](#)



Save the Date

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.

Support our Mission:

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

DONATE TODAY!

CRN thanks our generous supporters:



The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust

Storytelling for Change

On August 22, Housing Action Illinois and the Supportive Housing Providers Association will host a workshop exploring how telling stories can make a difference for permanent supportive housing residents. From Housing Action:

"The seeds of change are found in everyday experience. The stories of people who live in supportive housing can shed light on important issues, such as what it is like to experience homelessness or live with mental illness or a disability. Because of this, Housing Action Illinois is partnering with the Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA) for a series of workshops to help residents of permanent supportive housing explore telling stories to make a difference."

Learn more [here](#).

Tenants' Rights Workshop

On September 10, the Chicago Housing Authority will host a workshop reviewing the rights that tenants have throughout the housing process at the CHA West Office. Learn more and register [here](#).

In the News

Guacolda Reyes Appointed to Plan Commission



Bickerdike Vice President of Real Estate Development and CRN Board Vice President Guacolda Reyes has been appointed by Mayor Lightfoot as one of four new members of the Plan Commission, a 22-member body that gives first pass to major developments, industrial areas, lakefront projects, and TIF districts. Her over 20 years of experience in

the community development field will be an asset for bringing affordability and equity to Chicago. Congratulations, Guacolda!

Federal Review Finds Obama Center will Adversely Impact Jackson Park

A [federal report](#) released in July states that the planned Obama Presidential Center in Woodlawn will have adverse impacts for Jackson Park. The report states that the changes caused by the \$500 million development would "diminish the sense of a particular period of time within the historic property and impact the integrity of feeling." This report comes as alderpeople Leslie Hairston (5th) and Jeanette Taylor (20th) introduced their [CBA Ordinance](#) to the

City Council, calling for strategies to be put in place to prevent displacement for communities surrounding the Obama Center.

City Seeking Input on HUD Federal Funding

The City of Chicago is in the process of creating a new Consolidated Plan that will cover the 2020-2024 period for the use of federal grant dollars, including funds from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), HOME Investment Partnership grant program (HOME), and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA). Residents can take a survey to express their opinion on the plan in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Polish](#), and [Chinese](#). Additional input can be sent to OBMGMU@Cityofchicago.org and may be included as public comment in the Consolidated Plan.



The survey will be open through September 30, 2019.

Maurice Cox Nominated as New Commissioner of Planning and Development

Mayor Lightfoot has [nominated Maurice Cox as the new Commissioner of Planning and Development](#). Cox, who most recently served as the Director of Planning and Development for Detroit, has also held teaching and leadership positions at schools including Harvard and Tulane Universities. We look forward to working with this new generation of City leadership to promote affordable development for all!

