



## Updates from CRN

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March 26, 2020

Dear CRN members, partners, and friends,

First and foremost, we extend our wishes for health and safety during this time of crisis. As many lose their sources of livelihood, lose their healthcare, and struggle to make rent, access to stable and affordable housing for all is more crucial than ever. In this newsletter, we provide updates and resources that we hope can be useful to you and your organization as we all figure out how to best navigate the unprecedented situation presented by COVID-19.

A note on our upcoming events: we are still looking forward to several upcoming events, including the beginning of our 25th annual Community Development and Empowerment Series in April and our Revolution Brewing Spring Benefit in May. In the event that these cannot be held in-person, we are exploring options for continuing to meet and learn together virtually. There are still spots open for our Community Building workshop--now is a critical time to connect with other affordable housing stakeholders and learn technical skills to bring more affordable housing to our communities.

CRN is a coalition of community stakeholders with members working on the front lines of affordable housing. We want to hear how things are going for your organization and know if there is any way we can be of service. There will be a lot of policy considerations and technical assistance needs arising in these unprecedented, challenging times. We want to be ready to add our collective voice so that mission based CDCs have the support necessary to continue their significant impact. As you have probably heard, there are important resources and polices for housing in this stimulus bill. Equally important, additional stimulus packages will be forthcoming. We want your guidance and suggestions about smart steps moving forward for equitable impact in resources and policies for our neighborhoods.

We hope you are able to safely shelter in place, and are grateful to all those who continue to work to keep our communities running. We are continuing to monitor our email and voicemail from home, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Jackson, Executive Director & the CRN team



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About CRN

Who We Are:



### Empowerment Series Starts Next Month

Do you want to learn technical skills for affordable development from Chicago's community development leaders? The Empowerment Series begins April 29-30 with **Community Building** taught by Joy Arugete of Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation. The first in the series, this workshop will present the community assets perspective as a model for community planning. Through looking at strategies employed by community-based development organizations, we will discuss the elements beyond bricks and mortar that community building requires. Day two includes a tour of affordable housing developed and operated by CRN members. [Register today.](#)

### Spring Benefit at Revolution Brewing

On Tuesday, May 12, join CRN and our members for a fundraiser at Revolution Brewing. Beer and appetizers will be provided. Minimum \$40 donation. [RSVP today!](#)



2323 N Milwaukee Ave.  
Tuesday, May 12 | 6-8pm

### Kevin Jackson on WBEZ

CRN Executive Director Kevin Jackson was recently on WBEZ to talk with Natalie Moore about growing concerns about housing during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Listen here.](#)

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.

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#### *Support our Mission:*

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

**DONATE TODAY!**

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*CRN thanks our generous supporters:*



The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust



## Resources

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### City of Chicago Emergency Rental Assistance

Emergency Rental Assistance is available for people suffering financial hardship due to a crisis such as loss of job, home fire or illness. The program is intended to allow families to maintain housing during the time it takes to regain stability. Eligible clients must demonstrate that moving forward they will have sufficient income to cover rent and other living expenses. The program offers a one-time grant up to \$900 to cover one month's rent. Applications can be filed at any of the City's six Community Service Centers. [Find the locations here](#) or call 311 for more information.

### Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund



The City of Chicago, Chicago Community Trust, and United Way of Metro Chicago have joined to form the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund. From their website:

*"The region's health and human service organizations are experiencing a surge in demand for services from neighbors and communities significantly impacted*

*by the coronavirus outbreak.*

*It's critical that these organizations have the resources they need to continue to operate at the highest capacity. Your donation will support the agencies that are ensuring our neighbors can access basic needs in this time of crisis."*

[Learn more about the Response Fund](#) or [fill out your information to receive updates on grants as they become available](#).

### Center for Disaster Philanthropy

The Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP) is a nonprofit conceived after the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina in 2005 by several funders committed to making disaster-related contributions more effective and strategic. CDP's philanthropy focuses on education, grantmaking, and consulting and can help organizations find the grant opportunities that are available in their area. [Learn more here](#).

### Mental Health, Mutual Aid, and Coronavirus

With much of the world now social distancing and sheltering in place, isolation from friends, family, and other social contacts poses risks to emotional and physical well-being. [This Curbed](#)

[article](#) explores ways to make sure that we're taking care of ourselves and each other during this challenging time, from reaching out to neighbors to getting involved in mutual aid networks. Our friends at [Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation](#) have also put together a helpful list of 10 questions to ask to check in on each other's mental health:

The infographic features a light purple-to-pink gradient background. At the top, the text 'IDONTMIND' is centered in a small, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the title 'Just Checking In' is written in a large, bold, black font. A white rectangular box with a thin black border contains the subtitle 'Ten simple questions to check in on someone's mental health'. The 10 questions are arranged in two columns, numbered 1 through 10.

**IDONTMIND**

## Just Checking In

Ten simple questions to check in on someone's mental health

1. How are you feeling today, really? Physically and mentally.
2. What's taking up most of your headspace right now?
3. What was your last full meal, and have you been drinking enough water?
4. How have you been sleeping?
5. What have you been doing for exercise?
6. What did you do today that made you feel good?
7. What's something you can do today that would be good for you?
8. What's something you're looking forward to in the next few days?
9. What's something we can do together this week, even if we're apart?
10. What are you grateful for right now?

### **Webinar: Rentals, Foreclosures, and Bankruptcy Court in the Time of COVID-19**

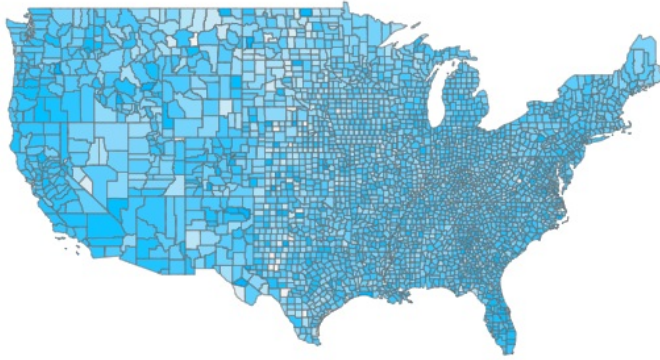
Join Legal Aid Chicago and Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing to get the latest updates about rentals, foreclosures, and bankruptcy court during the novel coronavirus pandemic. You'll find out what's going on, and what relief is being offered for homeowners and tenants by the courts, government agencies, and creditors. The webinar will be held Friday, March 27 at 1:45pm. [Register here.](#)

### **Breaking Down the New Bill**

Still not sure what all is in the coronavirus response package? NLIHC provides a breakdown of funding for housing programs in the \$6 trillion bill, including \$4 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants for homelessness assistance, \$5 billion for CDBG, and more. [Read more.](#)

### **Housing Instability and COVID-19 Map**

NLIHC has created an interactive map breaking down rental housing instability, homelessness, and COVID-19 cases by county. [Take a look.](#)



### **Domestic Violence Hotline**

The shelter in place order presents a risk to those facing domestic violence who will be required to stay in an unsafe household situation. Individuals can reach out to the [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline](#) at 1-877-863-6338 (Voice) or 1-877-863-6339 (TTY). The hotline is toll free, confidential, multilingual, and open 24-hour.

### **Further Reading: Housing Policy Must Change in Wake of COVID-19**

COVID-19 affects us all, and everyone is at risk. But low-income and housing insecure individuals and households face some of the greatest risks. In a recent article, Shelterforce looks at COVID-19 through a housing justice lens, including who it will impact, how housing and health intersect, and how we must take action moving forward. [Read it here.](#)