

Network NEWS

Updates from CRN

November 22, 2019

Happy Thanksgiving!

As we set aside time next week to reflect on all that we're thankful for, the Chicago Rehab Network wishes you a happy Thanksgiving and extends our gratitude for your ongoing partnership. From our members to our Empowerment Series students, from our financial partners to all of our other friends and supporters, each member of the CRN community plays an important role in promoting housing equity for all Chicagoans. We are thankful for you and for another year of capacity-building, affordable housing advocacy, and coalition-building with allies around the city. There is a sense of promise as well as a sense of urgency about affordable housing today in all our neighborhoods--we have our work cut out for us, but together we can make a difference. We hope that you have an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season!

#ILGIVE

Following Thanksgiving and Black Friday, on December 3rd, you can help support CRN's mission of *development without displacement* by

making a donation for Giving Tuesday. Across Illinois and the United States, individuals will give back to their communities by supporting non-profits addressing the issues they care about--this year, we ask that you include CRN in your giving. As we come to the end of another year of affordable housing advocacy and capacity-building, we are excited about the opportunities that 2020 will bring, from training a new cohort through our [Community Development and Empowerment Series](#) to continuing to build the capacity of housing cooperatives in Chicago through the Center for Shared Ownership. **Our work is possible because of our friends and partners. Please join us in helping make Chicago more affordable for every household!**



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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 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.



Empowerment Series students tour a construction site during November's Project and Construction Management class.

Empowerment Series Continues in December

Do you want to learn technical skills for affordable development from Chicago's community development leaders? **The Empowerment Series continues December 5-6** with Property and Asset Management taught by Eleazar Vazquez of Hispanic Housing Development Corporation. This course will review the key aspects of the property management of subsidized housing. Focus will be given to marketing and lease up, accounting, asset management, fair housing laws, maintenance, capital improvements, and resident services.

[REGISTER](#)

CRN Budget Comments

Earlier this month, CRN released our comments on the City's proposed 2020 budget. Key analysis points included:

- DOH will receive over \$10 million more in Corporate Funds than in 2019. While an improvement, this allocation of

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

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CRN thanks our generous supporters:



POLK BROS FOUNDATION
A foundation for Chicago families



The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust

Corporate Funds is still a reduction from the 2008 high appropriation of \$32.3 million.

- Overall funding for Delegate Agencies - key neighborhood partners leading service delivery and development strategies - is increased by almost \$50 million.
- Revenue from the Real Estate Transaction Tax is projected at a robust \$202 million dollars. \$64 millions of this is appropriated to the Chicago Transit Authority with no dollars dedicated to residential real estate activities.

Read the full report [here](#).

Save the Date

Committee on Housing and Real Estate Meeting

On Wednesday, December 11, the Committee on Housing and Real Estate will meet at 10am in the City Council Chambers to hold a subject matter hearing on the Development for all Ordinance. You can see the agenda [here](#) and find out more about the ordinance from the Chicago Housing Initiative [here](#).

In the News

Congratulations to Kristin Faust

Former president of Neighborhood Housing Services and

longtime-housing advocate Kristin Faust assumed her new position as executive director of Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) on November 12. As the state's chief affordable housing official, Faust will provide leadership in state housing policy to advance IHDA's mission of



financing the creation and preservation of affordable housing throughout Illinois. Previously, she worked in community development banking. Read the full IHDA release [here](#). We are excited to see another leader from the affordable housing community take on such an important role and we look forward to continued partnership!

ARO Task Force Announced

Mayor Lightfoot and DOH Commissioner Marisa Novara have announced the 20 community advocates, developers, and other stakeholders who will make up the new Inclusionary Housing Task Force, including CRN's board president Joy Aruguete of Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation. The task force will recommend improvements to the Affordable Requirements Ordinance (ARO) and help shape broader inclusionary housing policies and will be led by three community stakeholder co-chairs and three aldermanic co-chairs. Find the list of task force members and the release from the City [here](#).

Guide to Candidates' Affordable Housing Platforms

As the Democratic debates continue, you can learn more about each of the candidates' policy platforms for affordable housing with the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's [debate watch guide](#). From Warren's proposal to expand the national Housing Trust Fund to Buttigieg's Homeownership Fund pilot, the candidates are presenting a wide selection of proposals to address the affordable housing crisis.

Housing Protection for Those with Past Convictions Advances



Rules designed to protect potential homeowners and tenants from discrimination based on criminal history passed through the Cook County Rules and Administration Committee this week by a vote of 5-4. Commissioner Brandon Johnson, lead sponsor for the bill, points to the protections as "a tremendous opportunity to correct age-long wrongs that have systematically deprived black families, in particular, access to housing." Read the full report from the Sun-Times [here](#).