



August 4, 2021
News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

UPDATES FROM CRN

Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit Renewed Through 2026

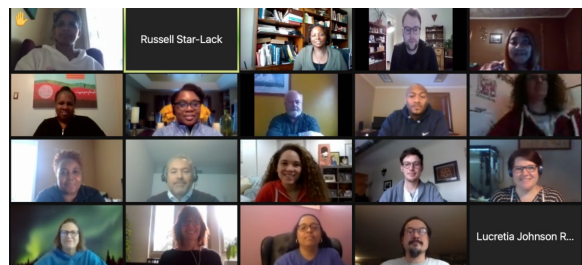
Last week, Governor Pritzker signed House Bill 2621 and Senate Bill 0265 into law to expand affordable housing funding and incentives. HB 2621 renews the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit through 2026 and encourages monetary or real estate donations to affordable housing developments through a one-time state of Illinois tax credit equal to 50% of the value of qualified donations to affordable housing developments. First signed into law in 2001, the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit is a legacy of CRN's advocacy and has been one of our key policy priorities in 2021. Thank you to all who contacted representatives and helped advocate for this important legislation!

HB 2621 also directs IHDA to create a COVID-19 Affordable Housing Grant Program and creates two separate property tax incentives to support affordable housing preservation. SB 0265 prioritizes access to the state's Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for families with young children and expands access to the program for undocumented residents. [Read the press release here.](#)



Be a leader for affordable housing! The Empowerment Series Resumes in September

The 2021-2022 Community Development and Empowerment Series launches next month with three Community Building workshops taught by Joy Aruguete, CEO of Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation. This class 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. The class will be held 1-4pm Friday September 24, 1-4pm Wednesday September 29, and 8:30am-4pm on Thursday September 30. Further



2021-2022 Community-Building & Outreach VISTA Position Open

CRN is seeking an AmeriCorps VISTA member for the 2021-2022 term! Beginning in fall of 2021, the Community-Building & Outreach VISTA will build the Chicago Rehab Network's capacity for outreach and communications, coalition-building, and long-term program sustainability. [Find out more and apply.](#)

NEWS & RESOURCES

HUD Restoring Fair Housing Rule

HUD is restoring an Obama-era fair housing rule that was replaced by the Trump administration a year ago requiring communities to take steps to reduce racial segregation or risk losing federal funds. However, this new iteration does not include a 2015 mandate that communities undergo an extensive analysis of local barriers to integration and submit plans to dismantle them to HUD--a requirement that Biden administration HUD officials said "proved to be unnecessarily burdensome." [Read more.](#)

Concerns Grow as Eviction Moratoriums End, CDC Announces Targeted Moratorium

After the state and federal eviction moratoriums lifted on August 1, many are scrambling to prevent a potential "tsunami of evictions." As Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle noted, "Housing insecurity and homelessness have been shown to lead to food insecurity, domestic violence, mental illness, preventable health conditions and substance abuse." [Read more here.](#) However, [the new moratorium announced by the CDC Tuesday](#) extends eviction protections to tenants in counties with "substantial and high transmission" of COVID-19. Currently, Cook County has [substantial transmission](#).

Eviction Prevention as a Preservation Strategy

From Enterprise: "COVID-19 and the economic shutdown disproportionately hurt workers earning lower wages and Black, Indigenous and people of color communities. The crisis laid bare housing instability among renters and caused an unprecedented need for emergency rent relief across the nation. Despite the rental assistance programs underway, owners of small and medium multifamily housing are increasingly at risk – along with a large portion of the nation's supply of affordable homes, putting millions of renters in jeopardy." Learn more about eviction prevention as a preservation strategy in the recorded webinar below.



Woodstock Institute is Changing the Map

On June 10, the Woodstock Institute celebrated passage of the Illinois Community Reinvestment Act and Predatory Loan Prevention Act thanks to the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, Gov. J.B. Pritzker, and a movement of consumer advocates. They also recognized two outstanding leaders: state Sen. Jacqueline Collins and advocate Keshia Warren Thompson and enjoyed a data presentation from Woodstock Research Director Spencer Cowan on findings from 36 years of Community Lending Fact Book mortgage data, Hope Unrealized: How Decades of Federal Policy to Combat Racial Segregation Have Failed to

Change the Map. Find more about the Change the Map project in the below video:



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

LCDC Featured on Chicago Tonight

Lawndale Christian Development Corporation was featured on Chicago Tonight because of their work on the [Reclaiming Communities Campaign](#) to build at least 2000 affordable, quality homes on the South and West sides. Watch the video [here](#).

CCH and LSNA Urge Leaders to Find Alternatives to Displacement of Homeless Chicagoans

Amidst plans to clean up Fireman's Park in Avondale, homeless residents, leaders, and CRN members including Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and Logan Square Neighborhood Association urged the City to call off the Department of Streets Sanitation cleanup and instead help find residents find housing. Although the Department of Family and Support Services provides onsite help for residents, many argue that adequate resources are not provided and that these cleanups instead lead to greater housing insecurity. [Read more.](#)

Emmett Street Apartments Begin to Address Dire Need for Housing in Logan Square

Bickerdike's 100-unit, entirely affordable housing complex seeks to address the growing need for affordability in Logan Square. Nearly 700 people applied to live in the building and are vying for just 50 units, with the other 50 units being reserved for CHA voucher holders. CEO Joy Aruguete said in a statement, "Through the waitlist opening process for each of our developments, we're reminded that there continues to be a dire need for affordable housing, so we remain committed to working to meet the demand through new construction and rehabilitation projects." [Read more.](#)



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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