



**September 17, 2021**  
News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network

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## UPDATES FROM CRN

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

The 2021-2022 Community Development and Empowerment Series launches next week 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.

[REGISTER](#)

### 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.](#)

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## NEWS & RESOURCES

### Cook County Early Resolution Program

Evictions and unresolved debt issues can have a long-lasting, negative impact on your future. Call the Early Resolution Program (ERP) to speak with a lawyer and get connected to other resources. This program is available to all residents of Cook County free of charge. You do not need to have a case in court to get help. The Early Resolution Program (ERP) includes free legal aid, mediation services, and connections to other resources including rental assistance. Mediation is a chance for a landlord and tenant, or debtor and creditor, to resolve issues with the help of a knowledgeable and neutral person. [Find out more](#) (also available in [Spanish](#) and [Polish](#)).

### Property Tax Incentives Webinar

A new statewide property tax incentive for multifamily rental was [recently signed into law](#) by Governor Pritzker. The program is launching next year and you may be eligible to [receive as much as a 35%](#)

[reduction in your assessed value](#). Join IHC, CIC, and the Preservation Compact on September 23 at 12pm to learn more about the incentive and where it's available. Attendees will also have the opportunity to provide feedback to Assessor Kaegi about program implementation in Cook County. [Find out more and register](#).

### **Pritzker Launches Strategy for Fighting Homelessness**

Earlier this month, Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2021-21, launching a comprehensive and integrated approach to fighting homelessness in Illinois. The order establishes the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and the new position of State Homelessness Chief to lead the task force. It also provides for a Community Advisory Council on Homelessness. [Read the full executive order](#).

### **Biden Administration Announces Affordable Housing Initiatives**

The Biden Administration is announcing a number of steps that aim to create, preserve, and sell to homeowners and non-profits nearly 100,000 additional affordable homes for homeowners and renters over the next three years, with an emphasis on the lower and middle segments of the market. The strategy looks to boost the housing supply, relaunch partnerships, increase financing, and more. [Read more](#).

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## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

### **RSVP for The Renaissance Collaborative's Benefit in October**

Funds raised at the benefit and awards ceremony on October 7 will help TRC create and preserve supportive housing for seniors, children, and homeless adults. The event will celebrate the theme of "A New Us for a New Era," TRC's plan for 1) Embracing online & In-person Communication, 2) Advocating for Social Justice, and 3) Environmental Sustainability. [Find out more and register](#).



### **Free Homebuyer Education and Breaking Ground at The Resurrection Project**

Designed especially for new homebuyers, this free two-part course provides the education, tools, and guidance to make home buying easier. [In part one on October 13](#), you will learn about financial goals, money management, and credit as it contributes to your goal of buying a home. [In part two on October 27](#), you will hear from home buying advisers and trusted partners on the steps to help you reach your greatest financial goal, buying a home. This programming serves the community in conjunction with other work at TRP like affordable housing developments--most recently, the organization broke ground on a project that will bring 53 low-cost units to Pilsen. CEO Raul Raymundo stated, "Over the last several years, Pilsen has seen private developments going up, property values going up and higher rents increasing at an alarming rate...We want the families that have been here for many years to benefit from the prosperity of neighborhood development...Working-class communities, like Pilsen, are essential to a vibrant city and a prosperous city." [Read more](#).

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

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