



**April 19, 2023**

**News & Updates from the Chicago Rehab Network**

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## **UPDATES FROM CRN**

### **Celebrating our Empowerment Series Graduates**

The 2023 Community Development & Empowerment Series has come to a close, and now it's time to celebrate! Help us recognize the next generation of affordable housing stakeholders and a quarter-century of development education--on Thursday, May 18, we will honor 25 years of the Community Development & Empowerment Series and hand out certificates to our recent graduates at the V. Collective Rooftop. This is a celebration you won't want to miss--buy your ticket today!



**Thursday, May 18 | Cocktails 6pm, Program 7pm  
V. Collective Rooftop | 833 W Jackson Blvd**

**BUY YOUR  
TICKET**

**BECOME A SPONSOR**

### **CRN Congratulates Chicago's New and Incumbent Elected Officials**

Below, read a note from Executive Director Kevin Jackson to new Mayor Brandon Johnson and the City's 50 alderpeople:

In this time of transition, we congratulate everyone who ran for office and your interest in Chicago and our neighborhoods. We need your leadership, and we need the people who need affordable housing. As we look to the future of our city, one thing is unmistakable: the need for affordable housing will be greater as will the realization that the affordable housing field will need to grow to respond. We will convene and collaborate for sustainable practices and new resources based in leadership, relationships, and community capacity. All that CRN has accomplished during the past 45 years we will continue to build upon in no small way because of our collaboration with government partners.

Housing is foundational to all that we aspire to in a democratic society for equity, educational attainment, health and economic well-being. Housing is a right, and it is our responsibility to keep this value at the forefront as policy is developed to respond to our current crisis. Community-controlled solutions focused on economic and racial equity are our fundamental guideposts and values.

Our work for strong neighborhoods spans advocacy, policy solutions, research, and capacity building. Linked here are some quick snapshots of our [training program](#) and [housing fact sheets](#). You can expect our housing and policy recommendations soon and we are available to discuss historical trends, current conditions, and future possible solutions at any time. A strong network of housing stakeholders and policymakers that view housing as a right rather than a commodity will be absolutely vital to not only recovery from the health crisis of the last several years, but also for the development of the truly equitable, affordable

Chicago that we want to see. We hope you'll join us.

### CRN Membership Dues

CRN members: don't forget to return your membership dues! You should have received a dues packet earlier this year. Please mail your dues to 140 S Dearborn St. Suite 1420, Chicago, IL 60603 or email them to [debra@chicagorehab.org](mailto:debra@chicagorehab.org). Contact [debra@chicagorehab.org](mailto:debra@chicagorehab.org) with any questions!

### Lissette Castañeda Joins CRN Board

Please join us in welcoming LUCHA Executive Director Lissette Castañeda to CRN's Board of Directors! A long-time friend of CRN, Lissette has a history of advocacy in Logan Square and at several housing organizations. During her tenure at LSNA, Lissette led many campaigns around affordable housing, including the Balanced Development Coalition, which resulted in the Affordable Requirements Ordinance and the seven year campaign to bring 62 units of affordable housing to west Logan Square, which resulted in Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation's Zapata Apartments. For over ten years, Lissette worked at Center for Changing Lives, another close partner of LUCHA. Initially, she served as a HUD-certified Housing Counselor and eventually became part of their administrative team, leading the organization's efforts around community engagement and individual donor cultivation. She also led the organization as Interim Executive Director during two separate transitions leading to the hiring of their current Executive Director. At LUCHA, Lissette has overseen a number of projects including LUCHA's office relocation, strategic planning process, and the rehabilitation of Humboldt Park Residence. We know Lissette's experience and expertise will be an asset for helping guide our organization. Welcome, Lissette!

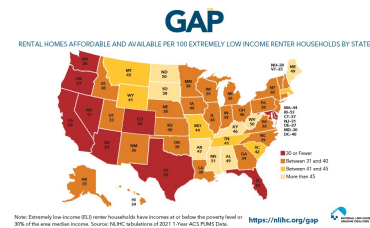


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## NEWS & RESOURCES

### No State Has an Adequate Supply of Affordable Rental Housing for the Lowest Income Renters

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's new GAP Report finds a significant shortage in the supply of affordable rental housing nationally. From NLIHC: "The U.S. has a shortage of 7.3 million rental homes affordable and available to renters with extremely low incomes – that is, incomes at or below either the federal poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income, whichever is greater. Only 33 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households. Extremely low-income renters face a shortage in every state and major metropolitan area...In 12 of the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the country, the absolute shortage of affordable and available homes for extremely low-income renters exceeds 100,000 units." Read the report and explore the data [here](#).



### Build Illinois Homes State Tax Credit

From our partners at IHC: "The federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit helps finance affordable rental housing every year, but project applications exceed the state funds available today to match the federal investment. The proposed Build Illinois Homes state tax credit will help Illinois match federal funds now left on the table. The best deal for Illinois taxpayers? The tax credits have no state cost initially. Investors only claim credits once affordable homes and apartment are finished and occupied. So the state gets the benefit of new affordable homes, jobs and private investment, with no fiscal impact for 1-2 years. This 'pay-for-success' model minimizes taxpayer risk and maximizes value for all involved." [Find out more about the Build Illinois Homes state tax credit.](#)

### Redefining Redlining

In fall 2022, artist Amanda Williams, in collaboration with Emerald South Economic Development Collaborative, led hundreds of friends, neighbors and strangers alike in a mass planting of 100,000 red tulips. The bulbs were planted in the shape of the almost 2 dozen houses and buildings that should still occupy this site. These tulip building footprints are meant to symbolize the value of the homes that used to be here, but more importantly the worth of the



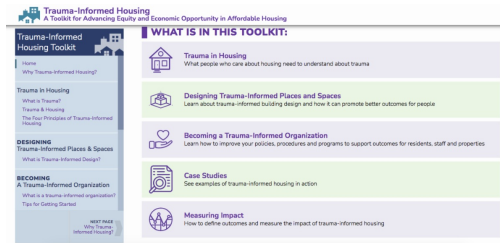
people that are here now and the beautiful black neighborhoods that can be here in the future. Red tulips will continue to bloom each spring, repeatedly bringing a burst of colorful joy, but also making visible the detrimental impact of redlining on black neighborhoods. There will be an event celebrating the installation on April 29 from 11am to 3pm. [Read more about the project and how you can go see it.](#)

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### POAH Releases Trauma-Informed Housing Toolkit

POAH has released a trauma-informed housing toolkit designed for owners, resident service providers, property management companies, architects and interior designers, funders and policy makers, and community residents. The toolkit includes resources including information on trauma in housing, designing through a trauma-informed lens, becoming a trauma-informed organization, and more. [Explore the toolkit.](#)



### Opening for Housing Cooperatives Program Manager at The Resurrection Project

In support of its mission, The Resurrection Project seeks a Program Manager, Housing Cooperatives to further the organization's initiative to expand community-owned cooperative housing. The Program Manager will lead efforts to 1) develop innovative educational and technical assistance resources for housing co-op buyers and 2) create a lending product for the purchase, refinancing, and remodeling of co-op units. [Find out more.](#)

### Opening for CNT CEO

The Center for Neighborhood Technology is searching for a new CEO. CNT works to create neighborhoods that are equitable, sustainable, and resilient through innovative analysis and solutions that support community-based organizations and local governments. A successful candidate will deeply understand the social, political, and economic root causes of environmental injustice and bring expertise in how to embed racial equity in housing, transportation, community development, and climate policy. [Find out more.](#)

***Want to be featured in our newsletter? If you have an event, announcement, or resource to share, [let us know!](#)***

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### About CRN

For 45 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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