Spring is in the air, and we cannot wait to welcome warmer weather! That said, we are very proud of the work we’ve done so far in 2022 to help make a difference in the lives of our families and the communities in which they reside.

In late-2021, the CHA Board of Commissioners passed a $1.2 billion budget for 2022 that will allow CHA to not only advance its mission to preserve and create affordable housing but also further its commitment to investing in the success of Chicago families, helping each of you achieve your goals.

In this issue of Going Places, you will find information on CHA educational opportunities, tips on fire safety, an overview of the Mobility Counseling Program, resources available to CHA youths and a few ways you can celebrate spring. Plus, make sure to check out the workshops for HCV participants starting in April 2022.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us. As always CHA’s comprehensive work would not be possible without your support. I want to wish you a happy, healthy and successful 2022. We look forward to another year of dedication, collaboration and excellence.

Regards,

Cheryl L. Burns
Chief Housing Choice Voucher Officer

New Hours and Online Appointment Tool
Effective January 2022, CHA’s standard operating hours are 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. As a reminder, all HCV Program Offices are open by appointment only and we encourage HCV participants to continue utilizing the online resources available. However, should an in-person appointment be necessary, scheduling is now available online at:

selecttime.appointy.com/chicagoc

Please Note: Masks are required for all in-person appointments and visitors must undergo temperature and symptom screening on-site.

CHA Programs Help Students Attend College
Need help paying for college? The CHA/S2S Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for the 2022/2023 school year! Over 125 scholarships at the $2,000 level are available to current CHA residents who are high school seniors or college undergraduates.

For more details and to apply by the May 16, 2022 deadline, visit www.thecha.org/scholarship.

In addition, CHA families can obtain a degree or certificate from City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) for little or no cost. Through the Partners in Education Program, a partnership between the CHA and CCC, CHA residents receive help with the enrollment process, academic advisement, and referrals for career coaching when appropriate. Eligible expenses include tuition, uniforms, books and exam fees.

Questions? Email education@thecha.org or call 312-786-3409.
Fire Safety Tips

Did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? Each year, approximately 500 deaths and 1,350 injuries are the result of portable heater fires in residential buildings, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). With wind-chills and sub-zero temperatures, winter in Chicago can be tough. However, it’s important to make sure safety comes first. So, when it comes to portable heaters, keep the following in mind:

• Do not use a portable heater in a damp or wet area, or one with a damaged cord; inspect the cord periodically to look for frayed wire or damaged insulation.
• Select a portable heater that is the correct size for the area you want to heat, and one with a guard around the flame area/heating element to help keep children, pets and clothing away from the heat source.
• Keep portable heaters at least three (3) feet away from household combustibles (e.g., bedding, curtains).
• Never leave portable heaters unattended. Make sure to turn off the heater when leaving the room and before you go to bed.
• Plug your portable heater directly into your wall outlet. Extension cords or power strips may not be equipped to handle the power needed for these devices, which can lead to overheating.

Mobility Counseling Program

Did you know CHA has a program that assists HCV families with moving to Mobility Areas throughout the City of Chicago? Mobility Areas are communities with poverty levels below 20%, a below median reported violent crime count (normalized by the area’s total population) or an area with improving poverty and violent crime rates along with job opportunity clusters.

Once enrolled in the program, Mobility Counselors are available to help HCV families identify housing and community needs, assist with locating a unit in a Mobility Area, provide guidance throughout the moves process and even help with the transition to their new community.

Current HCV families with children ages 0-16 who do not already live in a Mobility Area are eligible to participate as long as they are in good standing and have at least 45 days remaining on their voucher.

To learn more, visit www.thecha.org/mobility or call Housing Choice Partners at 312-386-1009.

CHA’s Opportunities for Youth

CHA offers a variety of programs and services to engage HCV youth and support them in learning and development. See the list below for ways to keep your young household members involved and engaged in the community:

CHA Summer Youth Program — This program offers many paid opportunities where HCV youth can spend the summer working, learning, creating and developing skills. For more information, visit youth.thecha.org or call CHA’s Youth Infoline at 312-786-6930.

Chicago Park District Memberships — CHA partners with the Chicago Park District to provide a limited number of year-round memberships and discounted registration to HCV participant families with children between the ages of 6 and 12. For more information on the Chicago Park District’s recreational programs, dates and times, visit chicagoparkdistrict.com or call 312-742-7529.

The Chicago Department of Family & Support Services (DFSS) — CHA partners with DFSS to offer CHA youth access to afterschool programs free of charge. To learn more about the programming opportunities that are available, visit chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss.html.
Celebrate the Arrival of Spring

Spring is an exciting time in Chicago. Across the city and in the surrounding areas, there are many ways to celebrate and take in all of the beauty there is to see. Below are just a few ways to make the most out of the upcoming season.

1. **Visit a garden.** Some of the local options include:
   - **Garfield Park Conservatory** — 300 N. Central Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60624  
     [garfieldconservatory.org](http://garfieldconservatory.org)
   - **Lurie Garden** — 220 E. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60601  
     [www.luriegarden.org](http://www.luriegarden.org)
   - **Garden of the Phoenix** — 6300 S. Cornell Ave., Chicago, IL 60637  
     [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/japanese-garden](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/japanese-garden)
   - **Chicago Botanic Garden** — 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL 60022  
     [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org)

2. **Plant a garden.** Growing season in Chicago typically starts toward late April and lasts until early October. Vegetables that grow well in Illinois include tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and herbs such as rosemary, dill, chives or cilantro. Gardening is also proven to have mental health benefits by helping reduce stress and anxiety.

3. **Visit the Richardson Adventure Farm.** Located in Spring Grove, Illinois, this farm features five (5) acres of tulips including 300,000 bulbs and 30 different varieties. Tulips are expected to be in full bloom mid-April through mid-May, however the weather ultimately determines when the tulips bloom. For more information, visit [www.richardsonadventurefarm.com](http://www.richardsonadventurefarm.com).

Neighborhood Spotlight: Ukrainian Village

Ukrainian Village is bound by Division St. to the North, Grand Ave. to the South, Western Ave. to the West, and Damen Ave. to the East. It was first settled by German immigrants shortly after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 but had large waves of Ukrainian immigrants move to the neighborhood between 1920-1939 following Ukraine’s declaration as an independent nation at the end of World War I.

Ukrainian Village is known for being one of Chicago’s most walkable neighborhoods and is within walking distance of Chicago’s downtown area.

Neighborhood Resources & Community Organizations

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<th>Resource</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Ward, Alderman Brian Hopkins</td>
<td>1400 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622</td>
<td>312-643-2299</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wardo2@cityofchicago.org">wardo2@cityofchicago.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th Police District, Commander Elizabeth Collazo</td>
<td>2150 N. California Ave. Chicago, IL 60647</td>
<td>312-744-8290</td>
<td><a href="mailto:caps.014district@chicagopolice.org">caps.014district@chicagopolice.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian National Museum</td>
<td>2249 W. Superior St. Chicago, IL 60612</td>
<td>312-421-8020</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org">www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian Youth Association</td>
<td>2457 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622</td>
<td>773-486-4204</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cym.org">www.cym.org</a></td>
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HCV Webinars: Online Learning Available All Year Round

CHA is invested in the success of HCV participant families. That’s why we’re excited to continue offering online educational workshops in 2022! HCV Webinars can be viewed from the comfort of your own home, office or even on-the-go using a computer, tablet or smartphone. Join us at one of our upcoming events, where we dive in to everything you need to know (but might not know to ask) about CHA’s HCV Program as well as helpful information for lifestyle planning.

For the full schedule or to register for any of the sessions (or view recordings of past sessions on-demand), visit www.thecha.org/hcvparticipantevents.

Requesting Accommodations for Disability, Violence and Financial Hardship
Learn from CHA staff about the policy accommodations that are offered to help participant families and ensure they have equal access to HCV Program benefits.

Tuesday, April 26
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Your Phone, Tablet or Computer

Frequently Asked Questions about Moving
Do you have questions about moving with your voucher? We have answers. Join CHA staff as they address the most common issues when it comes to moving (including questions asked during the live session).

Tuesday, May 24
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Your Phone, Tablet or Computer