



CHICAGO HOUSING
AUTHORITY™

NEWS FROM THE CHA

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO :

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share with you news of CHA's continued efforts to provide housing opportunities that help renters move towards greater economic security in every Chicago neighborhood. We have recently celebrated significant milestones with our partners as we've worked collaboratively to support communities that create access to housing and pride for residents.

From financing, to co-development, to mixed-use sites, we are working strategically to bring affordable housing to areas that sorely need it. We've secured financing for housing in Opportunity Areas like Logan Square and for mixed-income housing with adjoining libraries in Irving Park and West Ridge. We've also transformed the former Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog building into affordable housing for working families in Homan Square. To date, we own and have invested in housing that is located in 75 of the city's 77 communities, and nearly 47,000 Housing Choice Voucher Holders (HCV) are living in all of Chicago's 77 community areas.

CHA is also working with landlords to help make it easier for HCV holders to choose apartments with our Landlord Incentive Program as we strive to help HCV holders find greater opportunity in neighborhoods across Chicago.

CHA is also focused on providing opportunities that go beyond housing. This year CHA has received over 470 applications for 2017/2018 college scholarships – the highest ever – and this summer, CHA youth will have access to roughly 2,400 paid employment and learning opportunities through CHA's Career Exploration Programs. Seniors are also being celebrated in this "Year of the Senior" with dozens of events held so far, and we are looking forward to the continued celebration of the vibrancy seniors bring to our communities.

We are driving forward with exciting initiatives and developments on the horizon, and I look forward to your continued support as we work to accomplish our goals together.

My best wishes for a safe and productive summer!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Jones, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Sincerely,
Eugene Jones, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

NEW NEAR NORTH SIDE HOUSING TO ENHANCE FORMER CABRINI-GREEN

With the opening of Clybourn 1200 on Chicago's Near North Side, a new mixed-income, mixed-use apartment community has opened in the heart of the Cabrini-Green revitalization area.

With development team Brinshore-Michaels and the non-profit organization Cabrini-Green LAC Community Development Corporation, CHA is celebrating the grand opening of the new 84-unit apartment community that will serve families of all income levels.



"We are excited about the new development at Clybourn 1200; this development brings so many positive components to the neighborhood including a day care center which is a great convenience for new residents who have children," said Alderman Walter Burnett. "Additionally, this development will help residents wishing to relocate back to this community."

In a neighborhood where rents have been trending upward, Clybourn 1200 represents an important new affordable housing option that will support households with a variety of income levels. Located across the street from the former site of the Cabrini-Green public housing complex, Clybourn 1200 will add to a rapidly developing neighborhood. The new apartment community will offer a Happy Trails Day Care Center on the second floor, with 16,000 square feet of commercial space located on the ground level. The new structure also offers a community garden on the third floor in partnership with City Farm, a working apiary on the building's rooftop that houses multiple honeybee hives that are cared for by the Chicago Honey Co-op and a landscaped deck with outdoor seating and a fireplace.

[Click to learn more](#)

[Move Back To Cabrini-Green, Ald. Tells Ex-Residents As New Complex Opens](#)

[DNA Info | Ted Cox](#)

REVIVAL OF SEARS COMPLEX INTO LOFTS ON ARTHINGTON

In another step forward for affordable housing in Chicago, the former Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog printing building in the Homan Square community on Chicago's West Side has been transformed into affordable housing for working families.

CHA Board Chairman John Hooker joined the community to celebrate and shared, "my first job was with Sears in the catalog-order division, in high school. They were always busy here at Sears. There were thousands of employees reporting here every day."

The former building that created so many jobs for local residents has been transformed into The Lofts on Arthington - a \$63 million development comprised of 181 affordable homes that will provide safe, stable and affordable housing and onsite supportive services to nearly 600 people, including 350 children.

The apartments, developed by Mercy Housing Lakefront, will be affordable to low-income families, and will also include 4,000 square feet of educational service space, a technology center, a fitness room and 7,600 square feet of outdoor patio, play and green space.

Residents of the Lofts on Arthington, who began moving into their new apartments over the last few months, will have on-site access to programs and supportive services, including pre-K education, in-unit neonatal health care and job training.

[Click to learn more](#)

[In Homan Square, 102-Year-Old Building Gets a New Life](#) [Chicago Tonight | Brandis Friedman](#)





FORMER PUBLIC HOUSING TRANSFORMED INTO CITY GARDENS

City Gardens, a new mixed-income rental community located on the former site of the Maplewood Courts public housing complex, has opened on the city's Near West Side.

Spread across seven, three-story buildings, City Gardens offers 76 market rate, affordable and CHA apartments to families of all income levels in a neighborhood that is experiencing a wave of new development.

“We are proud of our partnership with CHA and Brinshore to bring affordable housing to families with a variety of incomes in this beautiful and unique community and to offer services that will enrich the lives of the residents,” said Gary Buechler, President of The Michaels Development Company.

The development team Brinshore-Michaels is one of the many partners to bring this project to fruition. Designed by the architectural firm Landon Bone Baker, the new rental community now includes a community gardening area, a recycling center, a business center and a large internal courtyard of open green space adorned with picnic areas.

“The design of City Garden Apartments brings a modern, vibrant energy to the neighborhood,” said Walter Alderman Burnett. “Additionally, this development will benefit former CHA residents wishing to relocate to the community formerly known as Maplewood Courts.”

Landon Bone Baker designed City Gardens as a sustainable community with environmentally friendly features such as bio-swales between the buildings to remove pollution from water run-off, a solar trellis and a composting zone. The project exceeds the City of Chicago's Green Housing Initiative requirements and is oriented to face towards streets connecting City Gardens to the wider neighborhood to foster a greater sense of community.

[Click to learn more](#)

INNOVATIVE EXPANSION OF HOUSING CONTINUES

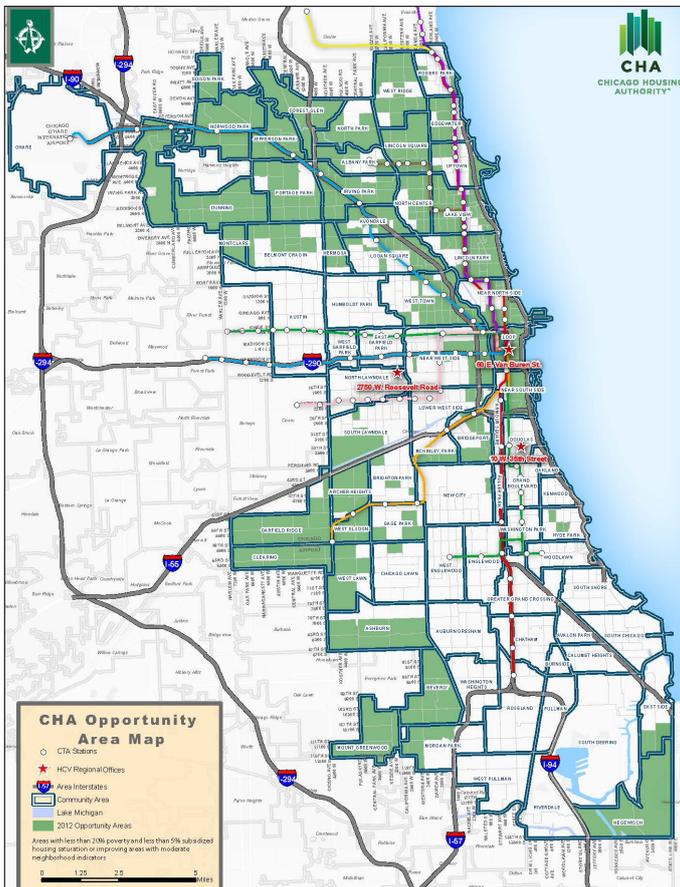
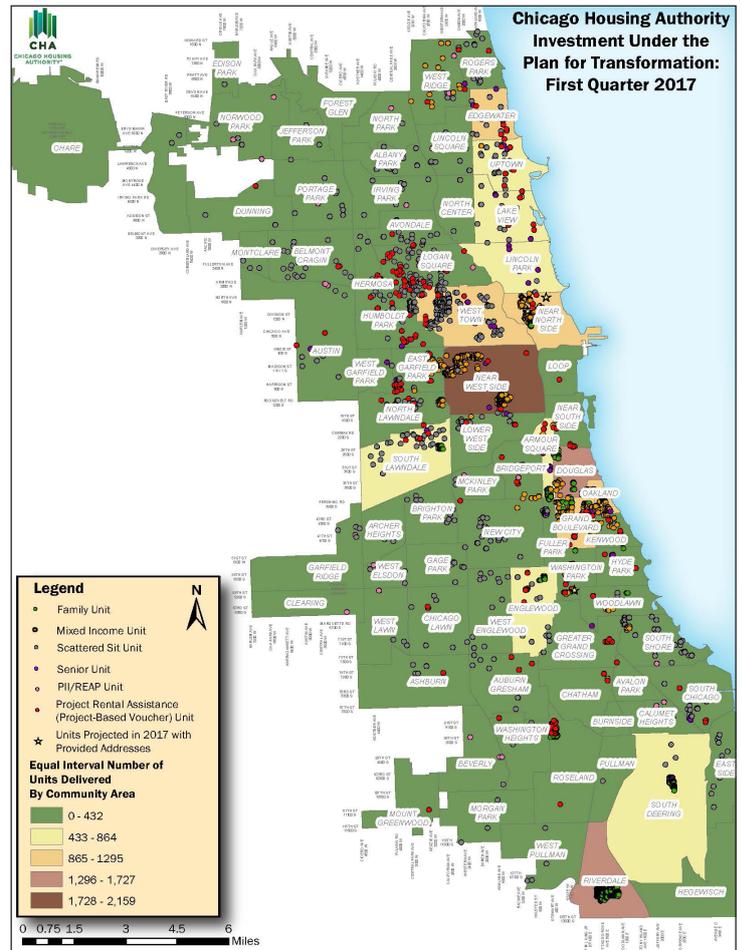
As CHA looks to the future, it is the constant commitment to the expansion of affordable housing for low-income families that drives progress.

Last month the CHA Board approved \$12.5 million for the construction of the John Pencyuff Memorial Apartments, which will be located in the Logan Square community in a North Side Opportunity Area. The seven-story building will provide 88 new housing units, including 47 CHA units and 41 affordable units in a community that will allow families to thrive. The new apartments will offer community space, outdoor green space and 2,500 square feet of commercial space on the first floor.

In addition, the Board has approved loans of up to \$11 million apiece for new apartments for seniors in West Ridge and Irving Park that will total 44 units, with 30 public housing and 14 affordable units. In addition to apartments, the space will adjoin libraries at both locations. The first of its kind, this development initiative goes above and beyond housing to ensure a comprehensive community space that is supportive of all generations.

To date, CHA owns or has invested in housing that is located in 75 of the city's 77 communities, and nearly 47,000 Housing Choice Voucher Holders (HCV) are living in all of Chicago's 77 community areas.

[Click to learn more](#)



HELPING PROPERTY OWNERS CONNECT WITH VOUCHER HOLDERS

In addition to co-development and the rehabilitation of housing into affordable apartments, CHA is also working to provide greater access to all neighborhoods. Through the expansion of Landlord Incentive Payments, CHA is making access to competitive rental markets in Opportunity Areas* easier for Housing Choice Voucher holders to gain access to. These incentivized communities offer stable housing, vibrant neighborhoods and resources that provide pathways to independence and self-sufficiency.

The new payment structure allows property owners, who regularly are renting in a tight market, to collect a one-time payment that supports their ability to rent to voucher holders.

As the program continues, CHA will track the results of this new incentive in an effort to continually find strategic and efficient ways to provide affordable housing and adapt to a shifting housing marketplace.

**An Opportunity Area is a census tract with a poverty level below 20 percent and a low concentration of subsidized housing.*

[Click to learn more](#)

SOUTHSIDE TEENS SHOWCASE TALENTS AT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL WITH AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY



Four teens from Chicago's South Side are now award-winning filmmakers after their documentary film was screened recently at the Windy City International Film Festival. The young women filmmakers used their creativity to flip the narrative on violence and instead shine the spotlight on the lives behind the headlines. Their film *Rise Up* was created during last summer's inaugural film program sponsored by CHA and DePaul University's School of Cinematic Arts where 16 young women who are Chicago Housing Authority residents spent their time creating films about their lives and communities.

"We had no idea what they wanted to pitch," said Lilliane Calfee, the program director. "What did they want to talk about? They could have done it on make-up videos but they didn't. They really went to the heart of what mattered to them as young people and mattered to their communities."

Four films in total were created covering topics that included single parent households and teen pregnancy. *Rise Up* was created in response to violent episodes that some of the city's young people experience. The film garnered the Rising Voices Award at the festival, making the young directors and their mentors proud.

"I thought it would be a chance for me to tell a part of a story that changed my life," said Tay'rece Wise, one of the *Rise Up* teenage filmmakers.

The main subjects and filmmakers are teenage girls who have witnessed violence in their neighborhoods, backyards and even living rooms, but refuse to be defined by it. With these films, the teens aim to help others feel the humanity of their intimate experience with violence, while learning skills they can apply towards college and career.

Franshay Lopez, another *Rise Up* team member said, "I thought it was going to be interesting and something new and I liked using the camera." This being her first exposure to filmmaking, Lopez has hit the ground running, and this summer will be participating in Flash Forward, a selective film program run by Free Spirit Media that will again allow her to spend the summer behind the camera.



On July 5, this year's cohort of young film producers had a special visit from Chaz Ebert, wife of the late Pulitzer-Prize winning film critic Roger Ebert during a discussion at DePaul. She provided words of wisdom to the group and told them to never stop dreaming. Chaz was so impressed, she recently published a shining review of the program and the teens on her blog **CHAZ'S JOURNAL**.

Please read and then share her **BLOG POST** with your own networks to help spread the good news about the achievements of our young CHA residents.

CHA's partnership with DePaul and this program would not be possible without the fundraising efforts of CHA's Springboard to Success (S2S), showing once again the importance of S2S and its ability to provide opportunities to our residents.

Click to learn more

Summer Program Aims to Help Kids in Chicago Public Housing

NBC5 | LeeAnn Trotter



IVY LEAGUE CHANGEMAKER ENCOURAGES OTHERS

Julius Claybron is an Ivy Leaguer, a Cornell University graduate, who today works on the third floor of a towering office building that borders the Chicago River in Chicago's Loop. His daily routine involves working in a well-appointed office space, with high energy individuals who have experience and insights to offer as Julius masters the ins and outs of professional life.

His routine was not always this way, however. As a child, Julius and his grandmother used to look out of his window at the now-demolished Ickes Homes. His surroundings did not reflect his academic or personal potential, and with support from the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), Julius has used his drive and dedication to shift his life in a new direction. For many, one opportunity is all it takes to create the building blocks for success.

Take internships for example. Julius explains that "quality internship opportunities frequently require money and travel, and people with my background simply don't have the means to access those opportunities." Through CHA however, in the summer of 2012, Julius secured an internship in the CNA tower downtown working on Asset Management for CHA where he experienced for the first time the demands and rewards of a professional work setting. "When I looked at my resume upon college graduation, the only conventionally professional experience listed was my CHA internship experience," said Julius. "The experience sticks out, and in a lot of ways these opportunities are a way to gain social capital to penetrate a professional setting."

Julius took advantage of other CHA opportunities as well. A two-time CHA scholarship recipient, he took part in CHA's Take Flight college sendoff events, and became a mentor to other teens in CHA's Summer Business Leadership Program, sponsored in partnership with BMO Harris and DePaul University's Management & Entrepreneurship Department.

Julius says, "be fearless. I've been there and you need to have no fear in pursuing your dreams. What's needed is support from mentors, parents, faculty and advisors which I had access to through CHA, and which I encourage others to seek out."

This year CHA has received over 470 applications for 2017/2018 scholarships – the highest ever – and over the summer, CHA youth will have access to roughly 2,400 paid employment and learning opportunities through CHA's Career Exploration Programs which allow youth to discover and pursue their interests.

CELEBRATING CHA SENIORS IN STYLE

The “Year of the Senior” is celebrating seniors and through a series of events and programs, encouraging them to “live well, live fully.” May was National Older Americans Month and CHA seniors were busy with over 50 celebrations that ranged from Luau parties to barbeques to a 70s Disco Soul Train jam.

At Lidia Pucinska Apartments, seniors threw a Cross-Town Classic and represented their favorite Chicago sports teams with their home town apparel. At Apartamentos Las Americas seniors paid tribute to 50s Rock n’ Roll and danced the evening away in their poodle skirts and classic 50s attire.

“Our seniors play a critical role in the stability and longevity of our local communities,” said CHA CEO Eugene Jones, Jr. “They have so much to offer and they all deserve to be celebrated.”



CHA: ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

CHA participated in the annual On the Table event sponsored by the Chicago Community Trust again this year and CEO Jones brought seniors and young people together for an inter-generational conversation. The group connected about what they have in common and discussed their hopes and dreams for their communities. This lively and engaging discussion was an example of CHA’s commitment to having honest dialogue with residents and stakeholders, and CHA is looking forward to the many events and conversations to come in the year ahead.



CHECK. CHANGE. CONTROL. LEADS TO REDUCTION IN HEART DISEASE AND STROKE MORTALITY FOR CHA SENIORS

Chicago Housing Authority seniors celebrated the completion of “Check. Change. Control.” an American Heart Association program that taught them about healthy eating, exercise and how to manage their blood pressure.

Seniors at select CHA buildings participated in a 12-week program that resulted in a five percent reduction in the risk of both heart disease and stroke mortality in its CHA participants -- a figure comparable to the entire American Heart Association’s Midwest Affiliates’ programs.

Participants met every two weeks to increase their knowledge of factors associated with the risks of high blood pressure and how small behavioral changes and the practice of self-monitoring can help to better manage their condition and achieve better health. Over the course of five years, 300 CHA seniors have completed the program, and in 2017 alone, 77 percent of participants completed the program between March and June, which is the highest overall retention rate achieved since the program began.

This year was also the first to provide a program targeted to buildings predominantly comprised of Hispanic seniors.

“It is Year of the Senior at CHA, and I want to congratulate the Class of 2017 for using this vital program to make improvements to their health. I also want to thank the American Heart Association for its partnership and support in these initiatives for our seniors.”

- CHA CEO Eugene Jones, Jr.