Now that it’s time to get back to school, I wanted to highlight the various opportunities for HCV families in the new school year.

Over the last few months, we’ve set new benchmarks for housing and community development as well as our efforts around building partnerships between public housing authorities and post-secondary educational institutions. And, our partnership with Chicago Public Library that produced three innovative, co-located housing and library developments was recognized with a national award.

In this issue of Going Places, you will find HCV Program updates, back to school safety tips, information on lead-based paint and the schedule for CHA’s Partners in Education Program.

As this is my last newsletter as CEO before I depart for new opportunities, I want to sincerely thank you for your support over the last few years. I wish you a fruitful 2019-20 school year and all the best in the future.

Sincerely,

Eugene E. Jones, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

Revised Lease Effective Dates for New Moves
For all new moves executed on or after October 1, 2019, CHA will now allow the lease effective date to be any day of the month, except for the 1st. CHA’s previous policy only authorized lease effective dates to be the 2nd or the 16th of the month.

Register Now for the Operation Warm Coat Drive
The 2019 event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 26th at the UIC Forum. Eligible CHA families with at least one child on the lease born on or after January 1, 2005 can now register online at https://coats.thecha.org.

New HQS Inspection Demonstration Program
In an effort to expedite the HCV Program lease up process, CHA is implementing a demonstration program that allows eligible HCV participants to move in to a unit prior to receiving a passed HQS inspection as long as there are no emergency or life-threatening fail items. The demonstration program will be implemented on October 1, 2019 and applies to any initial inspections that occur on or after that date.

Reminder to Update Your Email Address
Is your email address current in our system? Have you yet to provide one to CHA? If the answer is no for either question, please make sure to contact the CHA Customer Call Center at 312-935-2600 or hcv@thecha.org to update it so that you can receive future HCV Program communications electronically (including this newsletter).
HUD Offers Grants to Clean Up Lead-Based Paint Hazards

If a unit or property was built before 1978, chances are the tenant will be exposed to lead-based paint. Deteriorating paint (i.e. peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking) is a hazard and needs immediate attention, especially when found on surfaces that children can chew or areas that get a lot of wear and tear, such as:

- Windows and window sills
- Doors and door frames
- Stairs, railings, banisters and porches

Lead poisoning can be extremely dangerous for children under the age of six because they are particularly susceptible to the potential neurological problems caused by lead-based paint due to developing nervous systems. Lead poisoning can cause severe learning disabilities, hearing loss, brain and nerve damage, and even death.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced that it is making grants available to help eliminate dangerous lead-based paint hazards from lower income homes in order to protect young children. Additionally, this funding will provide an opportunity for local communities to establish and support programs to control other housing-related health and safety hazards.

HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes promotes local efforts to eliminate dangerous lead-paint hazards and other housing-related health hazards from lower income homes, stimulate private sector investment in lead hazard control, support cutting-edge research on methods for assessing and controlling housing-related health and safety hazards, and educate the public about the dangers of hazards in the home.

To find out more about HUD’s Lead-Based Paint and Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Programs, visit www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/lbp/lhc.

Back to School Safety Tips: Help Create Safe Communities

It’s that time of year when local children and families go back to school. In an effort to ensure that students have a safe route to and from their schools, the CHA has been working with the City of Chicago to foster a welcoming environment for returning students. Join the effort to make communities safer by utilizing the following tips:

Help maintain your community — Pick up bottles, trash and other litter around your property.

Use a buddy system — Encourage your children to stick together when commuting to and from school.

Report suspicious activity — If you see something, say something. Report any suspicious activity to the police.

Direct route — Encourage your children to go directly to school and return directly home.

Creating a safe community for children requires the involvement and commitment of the entire community, including parents, students, property owners and CHA.

Attorney General Consumer Advocacy

Did you know that the Illinois Attorney General protects Illinois consumers and businesses victimized by fraud, deception and unfair business practices? An important part of the Division’s work is assisting in resolving disputes or complaints filed by individual consumers. If you’ve been a victim of fraud, deception or unfair methods of competition, visit www.ag.state.il.us/consumers to fill out a Consumer Complaint Form and browse fact sheets, news releases and other helpful resources.
CHA’s Partners in Education Program

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

Your first step to enroll in the Partners in Education Program is to attend an information session. Check out the fall and winter dates below!

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Neighborhood Spotlight: Edison Park

Bound by Howard Street to the North, Ozanam to the West, Devon to the South and Harlem Avenue to the East, Edison Park is the farthest northwest community in Chicago.

Edison Park was named after Thomas Edison after six streetlights were installed in a residential subdivision in the 1880s. The town asked Edison if they could rename the community in his honor and he agreed to let them do so.

Neighborhood Resources & Community Organizations

41st Ward, Alderman Anthony Napolitano
7442 N. Harlem Ave., Chicago, IL 60631
773-631-2241
ward41@cityofchicago.org

16th Police District, Commander Maureen C. Biggane
5151 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60630
312-742-4480
CAPS016District@chicagopolice.org

Edison Park Chamber of Commerce
6730 N. Olmsted Ave., Chicago, IL 60631
773-631-0063
info@edisonpark.org

Edison Park Youth Inc.
6566 N. Avondale Ave., Chicago, IL 60631
312-458-0865
www.edisonparkyouth.org

Mental Health Association GC (MHAGC)
6323 N. Avondale Ave., Chicago, IL 60631
800-209-8114
www.mhagcusa.org

www.thecha.org/residents
Going Places

Upcoming HCV Participant Workshops

Protect Your Voucher:
Understanding HCV Enforcement

Join us to discuss how to avoid common mistakes when you receive an Intent to Terminate notice, attend hearings, or even face termination.

Thursday, October 3, 2019 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
CHA Central Office
60 E. Van Buren, Chicago, IL 60605

HCV 101: Understanding Your Housing Choice Voucher

What exactly is a voucher good for? Join us as CHA staff gets back to basics and breaks down how the voucher program works.

Thursday, October 10, 2019 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
McKinley Park Branch Library
1915 W. 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60609

Register to attend these events and see the full schedule at CHA-HCVevents.eventbrite.com. To RSVP for HCV participant workshops by phone, please call 312-542-8881.

Disclaimer: All HCV participant workshops are free and open to all Program participants and property owners, as well as family, friends, neighbors, etc. However, material covered in these workshops is intended specifically for HCV Program participants and may not apply to all audiences. For more information, please contact hcvmarketing@thecha.org.