Happy 2020 to all! A new year offers us a chance for new opportunities and growth, and I am pleased to share with you information about several initiatives that have been designed with you and your family in mind.

The CHA Scholarship Program is currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year and I encourage everyone who is eligible to apply. This year, CHA plans to award over 250 scholarships (ranging from $1,000) based on each applicant’s academic merit, community involvement, and essay content. The deadline to apply is May 14. For more information, visit [www.thecha.org/scholarship](http://www.thecha.org/scholarship).

In addition, CHA offers many paid opportunities for youth to work, learn, create and develop skills during the summer. For full program details and to be notified when the City of Chicago summer employment program application goes live, visit [https://youth.thecha.org](https://youth.thecha.org).

In this edition of Going Places, you will find information regarding COVID-19, CHA’s cannabis policy and the upcoming Chicago Census 2020, as well as an update on the moving process. Plus, make sure to check out the workshops for HCV participants starting in April.

As always, CHA’s comprehensive work would not be possible without your support. I look forward to another year of meaningful conversation and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Burns
Chief Housing Choice Voucher Officer

**What’s New**

**HCV Administrative Plan Changes**
During the January 2020 meeting, the CHA Board of Commissioners approved the following changes to the HCV Administrative Plan, effective February 1, 2020.

**Briefings and Voucher Issuance**
Any Live-In Aide who is a family member but moves in to the unit as a Live-In Aide is prohibited from changing their voucher status and gaining rights to the voucher.

**Re-Examinations**
When CHA notifies HCV participants and property owners, in writing, of changes to the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), the reason for the change must also be included.

**CTO Homeownership**
Those participating in the Choose to Own (CTO) Homeownership Program must notify CHA of any changes to the mortgage payment amount (increase or decrease) within 14 days of the date of the notice from the mortgage lender. In addition, assets are now disregarded after initial eligibility and not included in calculating the voucher holder’s portion. Finally, the monthly maintenance allowance for CTO participants is now one percent of the purchase price of the unit divided evenly throughout the 12 months of the year or $75, whichever is greater.
Chicago Census 2020 ... Be Counted!

CHA joins Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot in encouraging every Chicagoan to be counted in the 2020 census as information from the census shapes our communities and influences Chicago’s voice in Congress.

Census data is used to determine what resources communities need. Funds are provided to state and local governments that use that money to fund programs and infrastructure like healthcare, housing, education and transportation.

An accurate census ensures equal political representation and fair allocation of government resources. The City of Chicago relies on population counts to make important decisions about local policies and funding.

For this reason, it is essential that everyone currently living with you be counted. Information you share with census takers is not shared with CHA and federal law prohibits census takers from asking about anyone’s citizenship.

Get Your Moving Papers Faster!

Good news! HCV participants moving within the city of Chicago now have the option to watch a briefing video on the HCV Participant Portal instead of sitting through a 2-hour briefing appointment.

You will still receive a notice in the mail with a date to pick up your moving papers from your local HCV office, but you will now be able to come in at any time between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on your scheduled document pickup day to receive your moving papers.

Prefer to attend an in-person briefing? You still have the option to do so! Your mailed notice will list the available briefing times on your scheduled pick up day so you can plan ahead.

Visit cha.participantportal.org, log in and click on the Moves menu to request moving papers, watch the briefing video, download moves resources, track your move in progress, and more!

What You Need to Know about the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In addressing Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Chicago Housing Authority will rely on the guidance and direction of the City of Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).

While the risk of contracting COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus remains relatively low, public health agencies are recommending that individuals take the following precautions:

- **Practice good hygiene.**
  - Washing your hands with soap and water for **at least 20 seconds** is best.
  - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if you cannot wash with soap and water.

- **Observe respiratory etiquette.**
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
  - If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
  - Dispose of your used tissue in a waste basket after each use.

For additional information from the City of Chicago Department of Public Health as well as links to a number of useful resources, visit the CDPH’s website at www.chicago.gov/coronavirus.
Neighborhood Spotlight: Uptown

Uptown is one of the most ethnically diverse residential neighborhoods of Chicago, bound by Foster Avenue to the North, Ravenswood/Clark to the West, Montrose/Irving Park to the South and Lake Michigan to the East.

Uptown was known for its entertainment in the 1920s and 1930s. It has a vibrant music scene, vintage architecture and is home to the Aragon Ballroom, Uptown Theatre, Riviera Theatre and the Green Mill.

Neighborhood Resources & Community Organizations

46th Ward, Alderman James Cappleman
4544 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL 60640
773-878-4646
info@james46.org

19th Police District, Commander Chris Papaioannou
850 West Addison St., Chicago, IL 60613
312-744-8320
CAPS019District@chicagopolice.org

Uptown People's Law Center
4413 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago IL 60640
773-769-1411
www.uplcchicago.org

Harry S. Truman College
1145 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago, IL 60640
773-907-4000
www.ccc.edu/colleges/truman

Heartland Human Care Services
4411 N. Ravenswood Ave., Chicago, IL 60640
773-728-5960
www.heartlandalliance.org

In January 1, 2020, recreational marijuana became legal in Illinois and Chicago. CHA, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the City of Chicago are working together to ensure a safe, responsible, fair and equitable implementation of the law and how the new law relates to federal laws governing the use of marijuana in public housing.

Our goal is to make sure you remain in compliance with your lease. CHA’s goal has been and continues to be housing stability. As such, we want to clarify our policy of seeking to maintain a balanced and reasonable interpretation of the new marijuana law and address matters involving the use and possession of marijuana on a case-by-case basis with a thoughtful consideration of circumstances. CHA will be working with participants as well as property owners and managers to ensure that everyone understands their rights under the new law.

In situations where there are allegations that a HCV participant has violated applicable marijuana laws, or where a property owner/manager of private property has filed an eviction action solely because a HCV participant engaged in the use, possession, distribution, or growing of marijuana, the CHA’s voucher review process accommodates consideration of relevant facts on a case-by-case basis and mitigating circumstances that are presented. For more information, visit the City’s Cannabis Information Center at www.chicago.gov/cannabis.
Going Places

Upcoming HCV Participant Workshops

How CHA Determines Rent for Voucher Holders

How does CHA determine Contract Rent offers? Learn from CHA staff about how utilities, unit size, property location, market comparisons, and tenant affordability impact the calculations.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
CHA South Office
10 W. 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program Accommodations

Learn from CHA staff about the available options when facing temporary or permanent disability, financial hardship, or domestic violence/sexual assault/stalking.

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Coleman Branch Library
731 E. 63rd Street, Chicago, IL 60637

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.