Happy spring (almost)! As the weather starts to change, please continue to follow the COVID-19 safety guidelines as recommended by the CDC and the City of Chicago. And, remember to prioritize your mental health ... check in with yourself and practice self-care as much as possible.

CHA remains dedicated to spreading positivity. On January 29, CHA partnered with the Daisie Foundation and Banana Republic in a clothing giveaway at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center. During the event, 150 CHA residents were able to shop for professional clothing and accessories. Thank you to our partners and residents for making this a successful event. We look forward to continuing to work with our families in building a positive future for all in 2021.

In this edition of Going Places, you will find tips on keeping your voucher in good shape as well as information about CHA educational opportunities, virtual inspections and internet / computer discounts that are available to HCV participant families. Plus, make sure to check out the HCV workshops starting in April.

I hope you continue to be safe and well. It is important to look out for one another and lift each other up as we work through these difficult times. Let’s put our best foot forward as we head into a brand new season.

Regards,

Cheryl L. Burns
Chief Housing Choice Voucher Officer
Keeping Your Voucher in Good Shape

Are you familiar with the HCV Family Obligations? Family Obligations are the terms of the contract between CHA and HCV participant family (including anyone listed on the voucher as well as any guests that may visit the unit). Following these rules will help keep you in good standing with the HCV Program. Here are some best practices to ensure you are not in violation of any of the HCV Family Obligations:

- **Avoid lease violations.** Communicate with your property owner to address any issues that may come up or questions you may have regarding your lease. Keeping an open line of communication is the foundation of a successful landlord-tenant relationship. CHA does not get involved in lease enforcement-related conflicts as it is not a party to the lease between you and the property owner. However, if the conflict indicates that a violation of the Family Obligations may have occurred, CHA will investigate.

- **Keep the unit in good shape.** Participants must keep the unit in good, safe, decent and sanitary condition. This also pertains to any guests that visit the unit. Damage caused by guests can also lead to enforcement activity.

- **Communicate with CHA.** If you have any changes in income or family composition, make sure to report these changes to CHA as soon as possible and include any supporting documentation.

- **Manage your appointments.** HCV participants must complete appointments such as Re-Examinations and HQS inspections.

To view a full list of the HCV Family Obligations, please reference pages 59–62 in the Participant Guidebook or join us for our “How to Maintain Good Standing with CHA” webinar on Tuesday, June 22 from 1-2:30 p.m. Register to attend by visiting [CHA-HCVevents.eventbrite.com](https://www.thecha.org/residents/cha-hcv-events).

### CHA Scholarship and Education Opportunities

Need help paying for college? The CHA/S2S Scholarship is now accepting applications! Over 250 scholarships at the $1,000 level are available to current CHA residents who are high school seniors or college undergraduates. The deadline to apply is May 14, 2021. Don't delay!

For more details and to apply for the scholarship, please visit [www.thecha.org/scholarship](https://www.thecha.org/scholarship).

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

In addition to the CHA/S2S Scholarship, CHA has partnered with City Colleges of Chicago in creating the Partners in Education program. The Partners in Education program offers City Colleges of Chicago classes to eligible CHA residents at little or no cost. The first step to enroll in the program is to attend an informational session. Upcoming informational session dates include:

- **Wednesday, March 24**
  - 10 a.m. or 12 p.m.
  - Your Phone, Tablet or Computer
- **Wednesday, April 7**
  - 10 a.m. or 12 p.m.
  - Your Phone, Tablet or Computer
- **Thursday, April 8**
  - 6:30 p.m.
  - Your Phone, Tablet or Computer

For more information, to register for any of the above informational sessions or to view the full schedule, visit [www.thecha.org/residents/partners-in-education-program](https://www.thecha.org/residents/partners-in-education-program).
Virtual Inspections Process

Do you have a virtual HQS inspection coming up? If so, you will need to complete a unit assessment survey at least 10 days prior to the scheduled date of your inspection. A link to the HQS Unit Assessment is available under the "Forms" tab of the Participant Portal at cha.participantportal.org. During the virtual inspection, the property owner will walk through the unit and assist the CHA Inspector via video conference. All you need to do is make sure you are home at your scheduled inspection time to grant the property owner access to the unit.

Per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations, CHA is still required to conduct inspections even during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, safety is top priority and CHA is taking the necessary precautions to ensure a safe and sanitary inspection, both virtually and in-person. CHA asks that any persons present for the inspection over the age of two (2) wear a face covering and maintain a distance of six (6) feet wherever possible. If you have an in-person inspection, the inspector will wear a mask, shoe covers and gloves during the inspection. Shoe covers and gloves will be changed between each inspection. If a participant refuses to grant access to the unit, the inspection will be classified as a “no entry” and may be rescheduled. Participants who repeatedly refuse to grant access to the unit for inspections will be referred to the Program Integrity department for appropriate enforcement action.

Neighborhood Spotlight: Austin

Austin is bound by the Metra railroad tracks to the North, Harlem to the West, Roosevelt to the South and the railroad tracks at Kenton to the East.

Austin was named after Henry Austin and is the second largest community area in Chicago, both by population and by land area. It was originally named Austinville and was settled by Irish, Italian and Scandinavian residents. The Austin Historic District on Midway Park is one of the neighborhoods most popular attractions as it is home to eight Chicago Landmark buildings.

Internet and Computer Discounts Available through EveryoneOn

Did you know that EveryoneOn offers eligible HCV participants internet service for as low as $9.99 per month?

EveryoneOn is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating social and economic opportunities by connecting low-income families to digital resources such as discounted internet services, discounted computers and educational resources. EveryoneOn works with internet service providers to create affordable deals, typically priced between $10-$20 per month.

Visit everyoneon.org today to view available offers in your area.

Neighborhood Resources & Community Organizations

29th Ward,
Alderman Christopher Taliaferro
6272 W. North Ave., Chicago, IL 60639
773-237-6460
ward29@cityofchicago.org

15th Police District,
Commander Patrina Wines
5701 W. Madison Ave., Chicago, IL 60644
312-743-1440
CAPS015District@chicagopolice.org

Austin Community Family Center
501 N. Central Ave., Chicago, IL 60644
312-887-4317
www.acfamilycenter.org

Austin Branch, Chicago Public Library
5615 W. Race Ave., Chicago, IL 60644
312-746-5038
www.chipublib.org
Upcoming HCV Participant Workshops

**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 questions and concerns when it comes to moving (including those asked during the live session).

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 | 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Online Webinar
Your Phone, Tablet or Computer

**How to Further Your Education**
Are you considering applying for college? Join us to learn how you can take your education to the next level. This session will cover CHA scholarship opportunities, the college application process and student loans.

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 | 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Online Webinar
Your Phone, Tablet or Computer

To see the full schedule of HCV participant workshops and to register for these or any other upcoming sessions, visit [CHA-HCVevents.eventbrite.com](http://CHA-HCVevents.eventbrite.com). Online registration is required.

**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.