



Q3 2015

Message From the CEO:



Dear Housing Choice Voucher Families,

My name is Eugene Jones, Jr. and I look forward to the unique opportunity of serving as the new acting CEO of a very important housing organization within the City of Chicago. Becoming a part of the Chicago Housing Authority has truly been the privilege of a lifetime as I share great optimism for the agency.

In just a few months, it has been a pleasure to have met several of you. Your input has been invaluable, and with your support, CHA will continue to forge ahead with implementing the key goals of our strategic initiative, Plan Forward. I came into this job just as the summer was beginning, and I was impressed with all that CHA has to offer our young people through educational and career opportunities.

Now that it's time to get back to school, I wanted to highlight the various opportunities — from child care to educational activities — for HCV families as the new school year approaches. Whether it's after-school activities, park vouchers that can be used during the week and weekends, or libraries and book clubs designed to keep kids involved, CHA has you in mind.

Dozens of public housing and Housing Choice Voucher students recently bid adieu to Chicago at CHA's annual "Take Flight" College Send-Off. Many received scholarships from CHA's college scholarship program to attend some of the most prestigious schools in the nation. Thanks to a partnership with CNA Insurance Company, Take Flight has turned into a major CHA event. Some of the helpful topics covered at the event included: summer classes at City Colleges of Chicago, Section 3 jobs, and maximizing financial aid.

There are also community resources for children and adults: organizations that provide free school supplies to children, "Safe Passage," which ensures safe routes for our children to walk to school, and the upcoming tenant workshop schedule.

Additionally, the CHA college scholarship program offers financial assistance ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 to residents attending accredited colleges or universities. CHA public housing residents and HCV participants can also obtain a degree or certificate from City Colleges of Chicago at low or no cost through a partnership between CHA and CCC.

It is my sincere hope that HCV participants take advantage of the wide array of key educational and other opportunities to help their families along the road toward self-sufficiency.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank you for your support and wish you a fruitful 2015-16 school year.

Sincerely,
Eugene Jones, Jr.
Acting CEO

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Owner Screening Tips

By now, experienced tenants are familiar with undergoing background or credit checks when applying for an apartment. What most tenants may not realize is that they have the right to screen their potential landlords as well. Below are some factors to consider before signing the lease:

City Code Violations – If a landlord falls on the City of Chicago’s “Problem Landlord List,” it is likely not a good idea to move into one of his or her units. Tenants can view the list at www.cityofchicago.org/buildings.

Evictions – While it may be difficult to determine how often a landlord evicts his or her tenants, the information in the lease may help shed light on this subject. HCV Participants are encouraged to read the lease carefully for clues as to how likely the landlord is to evict a tenant. For example, if a lease violation automatically results in eviction, rather than a warning, chances are the landlord evicts many of his or her tenants.

Foreclosures – Tenants should fully understand their rights in regard to foreclosure. For assistance on foreclosures and finding out if a certain building is in foreclosure, tenants can call the Lawyers’ Committee for Better Housing (LCBH) free Tenants in Foreclosure Help Line at (312) 484-3507.

Rent Ready – One of the most important factors to consider is whether the unit is “Rent Ready” according to CHA HQS guidelines. Once the RTA Packet has been submitted for processing, CHA will conduct an inspection to ensure the unit will not endanger the health and safety of the tenant. HCV Participants should wait until the unit has passed the inspection before signing the lease. HCV participants can refer to pages 36-37 and 49-51 in the

HCV Participant Reference Guide for more information about HQS Inspections.

Lease Negotiations – Tenants should make sure that all expectations are clearly stated in the lease before signing – not just verbal agreements. When seeking a unit, tenants should ask questions like, “Who is responsible for clearing the snow from the walkways?” and “How often do you conduct walk-throughs?” Knowing this information ahead of time will help determine if a landlord will be a good fit.

Steering – Steering is a term that some tenants may have heard before – if a tenant is looking at a unit in Lakeview, for example, but the landlord says something like, “Actually I have a really great unit in Englewood that I think you would prefer,” then this is an example of steering and should be a red flag to the tenant. HCV Participants are encouraged to consult the HCV Participant Reference Guide for more information on fair housing.

“Bait and Switch” – Perhaps a tenant asks to see the unit in person before filling out an application. If everything looks great, the tenant might be ready to sign the lease and accept the keys to the new apartment, only to find out that their keys belong to a unit that was not the one that they saw before signing the lease. Unfortunately it is not uncommon for tenants to experience this type of treatment by landlords. One of the best ways to avoid the “bait and switch” is to remember the unit number, floor, and location within the building, look for that information on the lease to be signed, and ask the landlord to escort them to the unit with the new keys. While this may seem like a lot of work for one unit, it will be worth it to avoid entering a lease for a unit the tenant does not want.



CHA
CHICAGO HOUSING
AUTHORITY

Housing Choice Voucher Program

Participant Portal

More ways to **CONNECT...**

Housing Choice Voucher Program Participants can now instantly access their Chicago Housing Authority account information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Enroll for **FREE TODAY!!!**

<https://cha.participantportal.org>



For additional information, please contact CHA's Resident Services Division at everfi@thecha.org.

Make "Cents" of Your Financial Future

Work to better manage your money and secure your financial future.

Sign up today with EverFi - your online financial tool.

www.thecha.org/makecents



For more information, or to locate a nearby home visiting program, please contact:

Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Phone - 844.803.3632

Email- gov.homevisiting@illinois.gov
igrowillinois.org

igrow is the Illinois symbol for quality evidence-based home visiting services to expectant parents and families with new babies and young children up to age five.

- Promotes family self-sufficiency
- Has a positive effect on parenting
- Connects families with a medical provider
- Reduces child maltreatment
- Increases kindergarten readiness

Home visitors are trained professionals who are matched with families based on each family's needs.

- Help parents watch for developmental milestones
- Help parents communicate effectively with their doctor
- Facilitate activities that increase parent-child attachment
- Help parents understand and respond to their child's needs
- Help families connect with community services

Families decide whether or not to participate in home visiting. When parents sign up for home visiting, it means that they want to become the best parents they can be.

Babies do not come with instruction manuals. Families who participate in home visiting are more likely to read aloud, tell stories, say nursery rhymes, and sing with their children, building listening, memory, and vocabulary skills.

Activities for Children in Chicago

After School Matters (ASM)

Apprentice or intern with ASM in sports, the arts, technology, and much more. All info and application is available online at www.afterschoolmatters.org. For more information, call 312-742-4182.

After-School All-Stars (ASAS, Chicago Public Schools)

Provides schools with tools and resources to improve K-8th grade students' sense of school belonging and cultivate engaged learners and leaders. For more information, please visit www.asaschicago.org or call 773-553-3590.

One Book, One Chicago (OBOC)

One Book, One Chicago launched in 2001 to engage and enlighten Chicago residents and to foster a sense

of community through reading. Chicago Public Library will announce the 2015-2016 selection in September. In the meantime, Chicago residents are encouraged to follow OBOC on Facebook at www.facebook.com/onebookonechicago and on Twitter at [@1book1chicago](https://twitter.com/1book1chicago).

CyberNavigators

CyberNavigators technology tutors provide computer help for both adults and children at more than 40 Chicago Public Library locations. Through technology training and mentoring, one-on-one assistance and small group classes, CyberNavigators offer help with computer and internet basics, and job searching. Interested HCV Participants are encouraged to contact their local library for more information.

CTO Program Q3 2015 Schedule

CHA's Choose-to-Own Homeownership Program gives participants the option to own a home within the City of Chicago. Interested participants should attend a CTO orientation session to learn more about the program and steps to achieving homeownership. Refer to the calendar below for upcoming sessions. *Sessions listed in green are in Spanish.*

South W. Regional Satellite Office, 10 W. 35th St.

Wednesday, Aug 5th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
 Wednesday, Sept 2nd, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

West Regional Satellite Office, 2750 W. Roosevelt Rd

Tuesday, Aug 18th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
 Thursday, Sept 17th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Central Office, 60 E. Van Buren

Wednesday, Aug 26th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
 Tuesday, Sept 22nd, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Neighborhood Housing Services, 449 W. 79th St

Tuesday, Aug 11th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Neighborhood Housing Services, 1279 N. Milwaukee

Wednesday, Sept 23rd, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Spanish Coalition for Housing, 1922 N. Pulaski

Thursday, Aug 20th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
 Thursday, Sept 10th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

The Resurrection Project, 1818 S. Paulina

Tuesday, Sept 29th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

OPERATION WARM 2015

NEW WINTER COATS FOR CHA YOUTH!

Registration begins for **CHA OPERATION WARM**
on **Tuesday, September 8th, 2015.**

Register online at www.chayouth.org.

QUESTIONS? 312-786-3621



Educational Resources for Students

City Colleges of Chicago – Early College Programs for High School Students

Through City Colleges of Chicago (CCC), high school juniors and seniors may have the opportunity to enroll in college-level courses before graduation. Below are the two types of early college opportunities offered by CCC:

Dual Enrollment – High school juniors and seniors can take a college class at one of the City Colleges of Chicago for FREE. Students can enroll in the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. While most students enroll in English, Math, Foreign Languages, and Literature, they can also enroll in career pathway course including Automotive, Business, Childhood Development, and Culinary.

Dual Credit – CCC has partnered with a number of high schools to offer college credit classes for juniors and seniors. Participating students will receive both college and high school credit for their work.

For more information about CCC Early College Opportunities, contact CCC at (312) 553-2970 or visit the website at www.ccc.edu and search for “Early College Programs for High School Students.”

Chicago Scholars

Chicago Scholars offers a five-year program to support high school juniors as they apply to college and earn their degree. The organization looks for energetic and promising high school juniors determined to make the most out of their high school and college experiences. For more information about Chicago Scholars and the college prep programs offered, contact Chicago Scholars at (312) 784-3300 or visit the website at www.chicagoscholars.org/programs.

HFS Chicago Scholars

Holy Family School (HFS) Chicago Scholars assists low-income inner-city high school students who show academic and leadership promise to achieve their educational goals by providing financial assistance and mentoring. For more information, contact HFS Chicago Scholars at (312) 421-4070 or visit the website at www.hfeschicagoscholars.com.

Strive Tutoring Chicago

Strive Tutoring provides academic assistance and support for social development and cultural awareness for children and youth who have limited educational and financial resources. For more information, contact Strive Tutoring at (773) 268-4910 or visit the website at www.strivetutoring.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL

starring you!

Visit <http://thecha.org/partnersineducation>
to learn how CHA and our partners

SUPPORT RESIDENTS TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION.

College Bound with City Colleges



CHA public housing residents and HCV Participants can obtain a degree or certificate from City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) at low or no cost through a partnership between CHA and CCC.

CCC Advisors help residents with the enrollment process, academic advisement and referrals for career coaching. Eligible expenses include tuition, required books and/or uniforms, and certification/licensing exams.

For more information or to RSVP for an information session:
(312) 553-2830



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The Student Outreach and Re-engagement Center (SOAR) of CPS is ready to help you get your diploma and build your future.

Options Schools serve students who need a new pathway toward high school graduation. SOAR of CPS will help you find a school that works for you. Contact them today to speak to a specialist.

Pilsen/Little Village
3948 W 26th St, Suite 213
773.542.9030

Roseland
1201 W 115th St
773.291.1086

East/West Garfield Park
2622 W Jackson, 2nd Floor
773.265.0560

Englewood
945 W 69th St, 2nd Flr
773.358.3248

To learn more about S.O.A.R contact the Parent Hotline at 773.553.3223 or email us at SOAR@CPS.EDU

www.thecha.org/hcv



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GOING PLACES

Q3 2015

UPS Access Point Chicago

UPS is expanding its UPS Access Point™ network in Chicago to help residents get their packages sooner! If no one is home when UPS attempts to make a delivery, the package may be left at a nearby UPS Access Point location for pick up at your convenience (including evenings and weekends). UPS Access Point locations are local businesses such as pharmacies, dry cleaners and convenience stores that are partnering with UPS to safely hold packages. Residents can also drop off pre-labeled returns at the locations. Chicago residents are encouraged to visit www.ups.com/AccessPointChicago to learn more or www.ups.com/dropoff to find a location near them.

Residents can avoid those frustrating “sorry we missed you” notices and take charge of when and where their UPS packages are delivered. Residents can sign up for UPS My Choice® at www.ups.com/mychoice to receive free alerts and know when their package is on the way.



The illustration shows a UPS carrier in a brown uniform holding a yellow cardboard box. To the right, there is a dark brown background with a small icon of a "Food Market" storefront. Below the icon, the text "UPS Access Point®" is written in yellow, followed by a description of the service and the website www.ups.com/AccessPointChicago in yellow.