



Message From the CEO:



Dear Housing Choice Voucher Families,

It's getting cold outside, and it is therefore fitting to start the fourth quarter message on a warm note – as in Operation Warm.

The 7th annual coat distribution and resource fair was held Saturday, Nov. 1 at the UIC Forum, and it was again an outstanding success. The Chicago Housing Authority gave away pre-ordered new winter coats to 3,300 families living in Public Housing developments or those with a Housing Choice Voucher. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., an array of volunteers helped pass out the plush, handsome coats to many smiling families, who also received a free bag of groceries from Lead Platinum Sponsor PepsiCo (3,000 bags, to be exact); financial literacy resources from Gold Sponsor Wells Fargo; on-site enrollment in the Internet Essentials program from Silver Sponsor Comcast; and free flu shots from Silver Sponsor Walgreens. I would like to thank all of our partners for their support as we work to help our CHA families along their road to self-sufficiency. And a special thank you to Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who helped pass out coats and provided words of inspiration. Remember: the website www.chayouth.org always goes live the Tuesday after Labor Day, so be ready for the 2015 coat registration and the follow-up eighth annual Operation Warm event.

I am equally proud to encourage all low-income households to apply for the 2014 CHA Waitlist Lottery Registration, which is open until Nov. 24. This marks the first time that low-income families and individuals have the opportunity to apply online for all three housing waitlists on one form, including HCV, Family Public Housing, and Property Rental Assistance. As of the end of the second week, about 200,000 people registered for the waitlist. Please help us spread the word on this historic housing opportunity as I continue to encourage all qualified low-income households to participate in the waitlist opening registration. Log onto www.thechawaitlist.org or call (312) 971-7700 for more information.

Thank you, and have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Merchant

In This Issue:



- Message from the CEO
- How To Be a Positive Community Member
- Space Heater Safety
- Victims of Waitlist Fraud
- 2014 Tenant Workshop Recap
- HCV News for Participants
- Mobility Program
- Sinai Asthma Program
- CTO Program
- FSS Program
- CCC Spring 2015 Enrollment
- Transitional Jobs
- CPS SOAR Centers
- Job Club for CHA Residents

How To Be a Positive Community Member

It is the responsibility of every community member to do their part to bring positivity to their neighborhoods. We encourage all HCV Participants to be an active supporter of creating positive change. Below are some tips on how to be a positive member of the community:

- **Volunteer** – Whether it’s an after-school program for children or helping clean up the streets, volunteer work can make a huge difference. Many programs rely on volunteers to help support their mission, and it is also a great way to meet other community members and move forward.
- **Join an organization** – Joining a sponsored cause helps create ties among community members and strengthens positive relationships among residents. It also helps create a sense of pride and concern for the community.
- **Be a good neighbor** – Having and showing respect for other community members is a key component of being a productive member of society. Being considerate of others helps foster positive relationships among residents.
- **Encourage others** – Persuading others to help change the community for the better will make a huge impact and helps ensure success and positive growth. One person can make a difference, but more people coming together for a great cause can do a lot more.

Changing a community for the better requires work and won’t happen overnight. However, HCV Participants can do their part to help improve communities in Chicago.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world”
~ Anne Frank

Space Heater Safety Tips

Last year’s “polar vortex” proved that Chicago winters can be extremely brutal. As a result, it is common for families to purchase a space heater for additional heat during the cold months. Participants and families should be aware of the following tips to avoid hazards associated with space heaters:

- Select a space heater with a **guard around the flame area or heating element**. This will help keep children, pets, and clothing away from the heat source.
- Purchase a heater that is the **correct size for the area** you want to heat.
- Keep all space heaters at **least three feet away** from household combustibles.
- User space heaters **only as a supplementary source of heat** – they are not meant to replace the home’s heating system.
- **Do not use extension cords** with space heaters.
- **Do not use a space heater with a damaged cord**; inspect the cord periodically to look for frayed wire or damaged insulation.
- Heaters should be placed on a **flat, level surface**. **Do not place heaters on furniture** since they may fall and become damaged or break parts in the heater.
- **Do not use the space heater in damp or wet areas**.
- When refueling, **turn off the heater and let it cool down completely** before adding fuel. Wipe away spills promptly.

Practicing space heater safety can help keep homes safe and warm this winter season.

Victims of Waitlist Fraud and Deceptive Practices

CHA has been notified of scams that charge money to potential applicants to apply or be moved up on the wait list. This is illegal activity. The CHA waitlist lottery registration is completely FREE.

If you have been a victim of fraud or deceptive practices regarding CHA's waitlist please call the City of Chicago's non-emergency phone number, 311 (or 312-744-5000 if unable to get through on a cell phone) to request to fill out a police report regarding your situation.

CHA reminds potential applicants that in order to apply for the waitlist lottery, you do not need to provide any documentation such as birth certificates or social security cards to anyone.

2014 Tenant Workshop Recap

The CHA HCV Program began hosting a series of educational workshops for program Participants in 2013. By teaming up with industry experts, the workshops focused on promoting understanding between Participants and Property Owners regarding their rights and responsibilities with program-related issues. During the second and third quarters of 2014, industry experts presented on Bed Bugs, Evictions, and Fair Housing.

Bed Bugs

In response to the recent return of bed bugs in the U.S. and especially Chicago, the city passed the Bed Bug Ordinance which went into effect

January 1, 2014. In order to help resolve the city's bed bug problem, the HCV Program teamed up with the Midwest Pesticide Action Center (MPAC) to provide four workshops for HCV Participants.

The presentation focused on the history of bed bugs, biology, facts, signs of infestation, treatment, and the Bed Bug Ordinance and how it affects both tenants and landlords. MPAC staff distributed fact sheets and quizzes to determine attendees' understanding of the epidemic and presentation.

Evictions

In order to help educate tenants

on their rights and responsibilities regarding the eviction process, the HCV Program partnered with the Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing (LCBH) to provide six educational workshops for HCV Participants.

The presentation focused on tenants' rights and responsibilities during the eviction process, lockouts and retaliation, the eviction timeline, types of notices, grievance procedure, and foreclosure. LCBH staff distributed brochures and fact sheets for HCV Participants for future reference.

Fair Housing

In order to educate tenants about Fair Housing Laws currently in place, LCBH delivered presentations on Fair Housing as well, sharing information about the definition and importance, legal protections, examples of violations, and specifics for voucher holders. The presentation was concluded with an open discussion about possible violations and a Q&A session.



HCV News for Participants

Uniform Housing Policy

As a part of the new strategic plan, Plan Forward: Communities that Work, CHA proposed to develop a Uniform Housing Policy (UHP) that makes both of the housing subsidy programs more consistent – Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV). The UHP will also clarify and streamline policies to make CHA more efficient.

Below is a table that includes the UHP updates that will affect Participants and families in the HCV Program:

Update	Details
All eligible households will be required to recertify their subsidy every two years instead of every year.	<i>Only families in the FSS, CTO, and Mod-Rehab programs will still need to recertify every year.</i>
Households with fixed incomes where all household members are seniors or disabled will need to recertify only every three years.	<i>Fixed incomes such as pensions, Social Security Income, or Supplemental Social Security Income.</i>
CHA will calculate annual income using past income.	<i>This update will affect 100% of HCV Participants and Public Housing Participants.</i>
CHA will not verify or record fully excluded income.	<i>This includes income that is not used to calculate rent, such as the income of a child under 18 or a live-in aide.</i>
Families can self-certify assets less than \$5,000.	<i>Participants and families will no longer have to provide outside documentation for assets less than \$5,000.</i>
Families must give notice only if the entire family will be absent from their unit for more than 30 days.	<i>Families will be allowed to be absent for up to 90 days. Exceptions may be made for reasons relating to a reasonable accommodation.</i>
Guests may visit for no more than 14 consecutive days and no more than 30 days in a calendar year.	<i>This is a current public housing policy that will be expanded to HCV.</i>
CHA will use government IDs, utility bills, sign-in logs, or other documentation to determine unauthorized occupancy.	<i>This makes policies about guests and unauthorized occupants clearer and more consistent.</i>

Voucher Extensions

For limited reasons, CHA will grant a Participant an extension to search for another apartment while they are living in his or her current unit. HCV Participants must know that a **voucher extension will not automatically extend the lease agreement with the landlord**. Extensions are approved on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed. For more information or to find out if a particular case applies, call the CHA Customer Call Center at (312) 935-2600.

Upcoming CEO Forum

The next CEO Forum will take place on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015**. The location has not been determined at this time, however CHA will notify all HCV Participants with an update when more details become available.

Mobility Program

The Mobility Counseling Program assists families in the HCV Program to move into CHA-designated Opportunity Areas within the City of Chicago.

Opportunity Areas are specifically identified neighborhoods that offer quality housing and positive economic characteristics.

Current HCV Participants that do not currently live in Opportunity Areas, new admissions, and families porting-in from another Housing Authority are eligible to participate in the Mobility Counseling Program.

Mobility Counseling Program Services

A Mobility Counselor assists families to identify housing and community needs and desires, as well as locate a unit in an Opportunity Area.

Participating families work with the Mobility Counselor throughout the leasing process to assist with transition into new communities (e.g. locating community resources, enrolling children in schools). Participants can also take advantage of the following benefits:

- **Workshopsonhomemaintenance, financial management, and tenant rights**

- **Community tours and unit search assistance**
- **A grant of up to \$500 to be used toward a security deposit, new furniture or driver's license training courses**

Enrollment in Mobility Counseling

Interested families can learn more by contacting the CHA's Mobility Counseling Program partners:

Housing Choice Partners

401 S LaSalle St. Suite 1101
Chicago, IL 60605
(773) 451-0203

Sinai Asthma Program

Are you an adult that has asthma or do you know someone who is?

The Sinai Urban Health Institute is offering a **FREE** in-home adult asthma program that aims to improve asthma control and quality of life among adults living on Chicago's Westside.

Trained community health workers work closely with participants to provide asthma and healthy homes education.

The program is enrolling adults with poorly controlled asthma from six different zip codes: 60608, 60612, 60623, 60624, 60644, 60651.

If you are an adult with asthma and are interested in learning how to better manage it by joining our program, please call Jeanette Avila, Program Assistant at (773) 257-2653, to see if you qualify!

Choose-To-Own Program

Upcoming Dates:
Dates listed in green are available in English and Spanish

Neighborhood Housing Services, 1279 N. Milwaukee
Tuesday, Nov 18th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
The Resurrection Project, 1815 S. Paulina
Thursday, Nov 20th, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
South W. Regional Satellite Office, 10 W. 35th St.
Tuesday, Dec 2nd, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Central Office, 60 E. Van Buren 9th Floor
Wednesday, Dec 10th, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Achieve Your Goals with the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

Enrollment for the FSS Program is now OPEN

Envision your life five years from now - what do you see? Some people have goals to improve their financial situation by starting a new job that will bring them satisfaction and stability. Others may desire to start or finish their education. Some people may even want to become an entrepreneur and start their own business.

Or, do you see yourself improving your credit to buy a home? Start preparing for your future **TODAY** by taking advantage of the CHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program!

The FSS Program is a goal setting and savings program available to all eligible CHA residents. All participants will receive one-on-one assistance and resources from a dedicated FSS Coordinator to help you reach your goals throughout the duration of the program.

For more information about the FSS program, contact Heartland Human Care Services at (773) 358-3854 or e-mail us at fss@heartlandalliance.org for dates to our upcoming FSS information sessions.

Let the FSS Program Help You Reach Your Goals!

Erica is a 30 year old, single mother of five children and has been a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program participant since 2009.

Before Erica enrolled in the FSS Program, she had never seen her credit score, was unemployed, and only had a high-school education. Since beginning the FSS program, Erica has been able to accomplish many of her financial and education goals.

- In 2010, Erica secured a full-time position as an Administrative Assistant for a well-known nonprofit organization. Erica's new earned income has allowed her to build an FSS escrow savings account worth over \$10,000.

- With the support of her FSS Coordinator, in 2011 Erica enrolled as a part-time student at Malcom X College. Erica anticipates completing her Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education in the Spring of 2015.

In the future, Erica plans to use her escrow savings as a down payment towards purchasing a new home through CHA's Choose-To-Own (CTO) homeownership program. To prepare for homeownership, Erica worked with her FSS Coordinator to develop a debt repayment plan, which helped Erica to improve her credit score by 62 points!

Through her participation in the FSS program, Erica is well on her way towards becoming a self-sufficient mother of five, homeowner, and college graduate. Erica is an inspiration for anyone that is striving to achieve economic independence.



Register for Spring Session

Classes start January 12th!

Through a partnership between CHA and City Colleges of Chicago, residents are eligible for quality training and educational opportunities at no cost. Visit www.thecha.org and click on the City Colleges of Chicago Logo or call the CHA/CCC information line at (312) 553-2830 to learn more.

11/3/14 - 11/9/14 : New Student Spring 2015 Early Registration
11/10/14 - 01/12/15 : Spring 2015 Open Registration
01/12/15 : Spring 2015 First Day of Class



Transitional Jobs Contact List

Employment and Employer Services (EES)

208 S. LaSalle St.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 442-1126

Service Areas:

60601, 60602, 60603, 60604, 60606, 60607,
60608, 60609, 60610, 60611, 60612, 60613,
60614, 60618, 60622, 60624, 60625, 60626,
60630, 60631, 60634, 60639, 60640, 60641,
60642, 60644, 60645, 60646, 60647, 60651,
60654, 60656, 60657, 60659, 60660, 60661,
60666, 60670

Centers for New Horizon (CNH)

226 E. 43rd St.
Chicago, IL 60653
(773) 538-2388

Service Areas:

60605, 60608, 60609, 60615, 60616, 60621,
60623, 60629, 60632, 60636, 60637, 60638,
60653

Chicago Urban League (CUL)

4510 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653
(773) 624-8802

Service Areas:

60605, 60608, 60609, 60615, 60616, 60621,
60623, 60629, 60632, 60636, 60637, 60638,
60653

Community Assistance Programs (CAPS)

8455 S. Cottage Grove
Chicago, IL 60619
(773) 568-1782

11717 S. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60628
(773) 846-6383

Service Areas:

60617, 60619, 60620, 60628, 60633, 60643,
60649, 60652, 60655, 60827

The Student Outreach And Re-engagement Center (S.O.A.R.)

of CPS is ready to
help you get your
diploma and build
a brighter future.

CHICAGO
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS | CPS

Let Us Help You Re-Enroll In High School

**we want
you back**

Our Re-Engagement Specialists and Facilitators will work with you to:

- address any issues that have kept you from succeeding in school
- provide any necessary academic or social support services
- develop a re-enrollment plan and a graduation plan
- deliver ongoing outreach to help guide your success
- provide online credit recovery
- provide opportunities to earn service learning hours

S.O.A.R. has opened Re-Engagement Centers in three communities. Visit the nearest center and speak with one of our specialists.

Pilsen/Little Village

Central State SER
3948 W. 26th Street, Suite 213
Chicago, IL 60623
ph. 773-542-9030

East/West Garfield Park

JLM Center
2622 W. Jackson Blvd.,
Chicago, IL 60612
ph. 773-265-0560

Roseland

Phalanx Family Services
1201 W. 115th Street
Chicago, IL 60643
ph. 773-291-1086

We believe in you.
Take the first step toward success today.
To learn more about S.O.A.R contact the Parent
Hotline at 773-553-3223 or email us at
SOAR@CPS.EDU.



CHICAGO HOUSING
AUTHORITY™

60 E. VAN BUREN
CHICAGO, IL 60605
www.thecha.org/hcv



GOING PLACES

Q4 2014



Job Club for CHA Residents: Public Housing & HCV

The job market has changed... a lot. We'll help you make adjustments to get a job **and** build a great paying career. Already working? We'll help you find better.

We are the Chicago/Cook County public workforce system.

What We Offer:

- Guidance on where to find good paying jobs
- Advice on what workplace credentials are in demand and lead to good paying careers
- Up-to-date skills on completing applications, preparing resumes, and interviewing
- Help with using social media and computers for an effective job search
- Academic and vocational skills improvement
- Financing for vocational training

Contact us at your local Workforce Center:

Garfield Workforce Center
10 S. Kedzie (1st Floor)
Chicago, IL 60624
Lisa Robinson
(773) 722-3885 x245

Mid-South Workforce Center
4314 S. Cottage Grove (Room 209)
Chicago, IL 60653
Antoinetta Hall
(773) 538-5627 x34

Northside Workforce Center
5060 N. Broadway (Suite 690)
Chicago, IL 60640
Donald Madden
(773) 334-4747 x228

Pilsen Workforce Center
1700 W. 18th St.
Chicago, IL 60608
Contact Person TBD
(312) 994-8300

Southwest Workforce Center
7500 S. Pulaski Rd. (Building 100)
Chicago, IL 60652
Chris Villalobos-Young
(773) 884-7000 x820

Contact your local workforce center for more information and to attend an orientation session!

Sponsored by:

