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Preparing for a New Era at Harold Ickes Homes

The final families take advantage of attractive housing options

The final five families moved from the Harold Ickes Homes on Wednesday, marking the dawn of a new era for the 11-building CHA complex on State Street between Cermak Road and 25th Street.

Originally home to nearly 1,000 families, Ickes' population dropped dramatically by the early 2000s, as crime and maintenance challenges increased. With safety and security as one of the top priorities, CHA closed five buildings in 2007 and, late last year, moved to close three additional buildings. The most recent phase closed the final three remaining buildings. All families were given the choice to relocate to another CHA-rehabbed property, or use a Housing Choice Voucher to rent housing in the private market. CHA offered relocation assistance to all families.

"Today marks an ending and a beginning not only for the families, but for CHA," CHA CEO Lewis A. Jordan said. "After years of living in a declining property, former Ickes residents are now living in homes of their own choosing – their futures in their own hands. As for those of us at CHA, the closing allows us to breathe easier knowing that these residents are in a safer environment for themselves and their families."

The Working Group - composed of residents, City of Chicago officials, community leaders and other stakeholders - will begin meeting regularly to determine options for the site's future.

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