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CHA RESIDENTS GRADUATE FROM MONEY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Resident Leadership helps ensure neighbors get information they need to prepare for upcoming changes

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17 Chicago Housing Authority residents have recently graduated from a money management program organized by the CHA's Central Advisory Council (CAC), which is made up of CHA's resident leadership.

The money management curriculum included information on budgeting and personal credit. The sessions were held over the past seven weeks in an attempt to help residents address any lease-compliance issues, especially where their finances and credit history are concerned. City Colleges provided the CAC with an instructor for the two-hour evening courses.

"These classes will help our residents adjust to the many changes that are part of the Plan for Transformation," said CAC Chairperson Mary E. Wiggins. "Learning how to manage their money and repair their credit will ensure that residents are ready to come back when the new mixed-income developments are built."

Ms. Wiggins, along with the CAC's Executive Director Olomenji O'Connor, attended a "Training for Trainers" session in order to teach some of these courses. It is their hope that other resident leaders follow suit and thus be able to hold additional sessions in the near future, located on-site at their respective housing developments, in order to make this knowledge customary.

These classes were borne out of Money Smart Week, which was held during March and featured a series of money management classes for Chicago residents throughout the city. Money Smart Week is part of a local initiative, made up of 40 Chicago-area organizations, to promote financial literacy. Sponsors included the CHA, CAC, City Treasurer's Office and City Colleges.