

WORC NEWSLETTER

4859 S. Wabash Chicago, IL 60615 | www.worc.thecha.org | 773-342-WORC 9672 | worc@thecha.org

Leteresa Williams: A Journey to Success

When Leteresa Williams first connected with Employment & Employer Services (E&ES) and its Employment Placement Services (EPS) program, she was determined to find work but faced several challenges. As a resilient cancer survivor, devoted mother, and proud grandmother, Leteresa showed extraordinary determination to build a better future for herself and her family. Through personalized intake and career coaching sessions, EES was able to help Leteresa identify her strengths, transferable skills, and career goals. With dedicated support, she enrolled in the program, completed job readiness training, and collaborated with her coach to create a professional résumé. Within just a few months, Leteresa gained valuable skills and the confidence needed to pursue meaningful employment. She proudly accepted a customer service position with The Chicago Lighthouse, earning \$18 an hour, and recently celebrated 90 days at her new job! Leteresa's journey serves as a powerful reminder of what is possible when job seekers receive the right tools and support. For more information about our programs, please contact worc@thecha.org. Let us continue to support individuals like Leteresa in their path to employment!



3rd Annual Construction Trades & Apprenticeships Hands-On Expo Recap

The Construction Trades and Apprenticeship Hands-On Expo 2025 took place at the Charles Hayes Center (FIC) on June 26, 2025. The event attracted 169 attendees and featured 28 vendors like Revolution Workshop, Ironworkers Union Local 63, Metra, CTA and more. This Expo provided residents with valuable insights into the construction industry, highlighting potential career pathways that can lead to excellent wages and benefits. The event allowed construction apprenticeship industry experts to connect with CHA residents interested in construction-related training. Apprenticeship unions, pre-apprenticeship programs, and partner organizations were invited to share resources and support residents in achieving their career goals. There were live demonstrations including drone and forklift operation. For more information about pre apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs, please contact Sheena Brewer, Program Specialist at sbrewer@thecha.org.



WORC INFO SESSION

Date: August 7th 2025 at 11:00 am

Visit Link to Register: <https://tinyurl.com/WORCINFOSESSIONAUGUST>

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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Resident-Owned Businesses Featured at Top Commerce Event

The Future of Commerce, Chicago's premier business and technology summit, took place on July 21, 2025, at Kennedy-King College during TECHICAGOWEEK 2025. The event brought together innovators, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders and proudly showcased several CHA Resident-Owned Businesses (ROB). Three WORC Business Academy graduates — Burgundy Star Massage and Wellness, Beyond the Looking Glass, Inc., and Herbalogy — were featured alongside other community businesses, highlighting their talent and entrepreneurial spirit. The NextGen Pitch Competition was a major highlight, with 10 entrepreneurs presenting bold ideas for cash prizes. Queen's Beauty Parlor won first place and \$500, while Burgundy Star earned second place and \$250; both winners plan to reinvest their awards into their businesses. We are proud of our WORC graduates and remain committed to supporting resident-owned businesses that strengthen our community. For details on the WORC Business Academy or upcoming opportunities, contact worc@thecha.org.



WORC Technical Assistance Workshops

Responding to a Small Purchase Quote Request

<https://tinyurl.com/2hwcbd2u>

Navigating the New WORC Portal for Businesses

<https://tinyurl.com/4h5ebdht>

Registering in the City of Chicago Portal

<https://tinyurl.com/2hwcbd2u>

Registering w/Government Agencies

<https://tinyurl.com/2hwcbd2u>

Registering in the Cook County Supplier Portal

<https://tinyurl.com/2hwcbd2u>

DBE Certification Information Session

<https://tinyurl.com/2njm5znn>

Registering in the Chicago Public Schools Portal

<https://tinyurl.com/2hwcbd2u>

MBE Certification Information Session

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7e4tas>