As we enter spring, I am pleased with what we’ve already accomplished in the first few months of the year. One initiative we are proud of is our “Take Flight: Staying the Course” event designed to help CHA students in college network with those who can provide internship and employment opportunities as well as guidance on setting career goals and navigating the college experience. And, that’s just the beginning. Our work throughout 2019 will reflect our commitment to providing services and opportunities for Chicago residents, while expanding youth activities and ensuring that people of all ages have access to resources that create opportunities in every stage of life.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Going Places. It highlights some new opportunities for learning, information about Mayor Emanuel’s new 311 system and tips for a successful move. Plus, make sure to check out the workshops for HCV participants beginning in April.

I want to wish you all a happy and safe spring season.

Sincerely,

Eugene E. Jones, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

What’s New

Virtual Learning — Soon you’ll be able to enjoy HCV workshops and other online tutorials from the comfort of your own home. All you’ll need is a computer, tablet or smartphone to log in and learn from CHA experts about important housing topics and HCV Program updates. Stay tuned!

Spring 2019 Resource Fair — This all-day event will feature a number of different stations providing helpful information on CHA initiatives, City Services, HCV Program updates and career/lifestyle planning, including job search and financial goal setting. Organizations such as LAF, Housing Choice Partners (HCP), the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) and Metropolitan Tenants Organization will be in attendance — just to name a few. Stop by at any point throughout the day (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) on April 9th at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center (FIC). Light refreshments will be served.

Don’t miss out!
Registration for the event is now open at CHA-HCVevents.eventbrite.com.
Best Practices for Moving and Signing a New Lease

There are five main steps in moving into a unit: unit search, submitting the RTA packet, passing the inspection, signing the lease and making your move. These tips and tricks will help you find the perfect unit and make sure you are taking the necessary steps before signing the lease.

Utilize available online resources. Active websites such as Nextdoor.com, Maps.Google.com and ChicagoHealthAtlas.org will help you identify community resources and transit options as well as view statistics on any potential neighborhoods.

Be thorough in your research. Your voucher provides you with many choices about where to live and it’s important that you have information about ALL of Chicago’s communities so you can find the neighborhood that best suits your needs and goals. In a city of 77 unique communities there are many options, including areas designated as Mobility Areas (www.thecha.org/mobility) that might appeal to you.

Make a great first impression. When looking for a new house or apartment, you should treat each visit like a job interview. At the first meeting, a property owner will decide if you will be a good neighbor and tenant, just like a company would decide if you would be a good employee. Dress appropriately and be courteous.

Prepare a moving resume. Be sure to include why you would make a great tenant. Here are some things that property owners look for in a tenant:
- Good rental and credit history
- Stable income (regular employment, Social Security benefits or a retirement pension)
- Good reference from employers or clergy
- Good telephone etiquette (for example, if you need to leave a message, be sure to speak clearly and professionally, and leave your name, phone number and the reason for your call)

Communicate with your current property owner/manager as they are your best reference! Notify your current property owner that you intend to move when you request moving papers.

Work with the property owner to complete the full RTA packet. If there are any missing items, it will lead to processing delays.

Carefully review the lease. This is a legally binding document so, if you have any questions or concerns, make sure to ask the property owner before signing.

Make sure to leave your old unit in good condition! Any additional damage may lead the property owner to deduct from your security deposit or legally pursue you for damage costs.

Get Ready to Celebrate Spring!

Embrace the end of winter and welcome spring by checking out some of the fun-filled events being held throughout Chicago.

Spring Made in Chicago Market
Bridge 410
410 N. Paulina St., Chicago, IL 60622
Saturday, April 13, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Enjoy food, drinks and art created by Chicago artists. www.eventbrite.com

One of a Kind Spring Show Chicago 2019
222 W. Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654
Friday, April 26, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 28, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
This weekend event will feature over 300 artists for a spread of fashion shows, live music, a gourmet market and more! www.oneofakindshowchicago.com

21st Chicago Kids and Kites Festival
Cricket Hill in Lincoln Park
Lakefront Trail, W. Montrose Dr., Chicago, IL 60640
Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Demonstrate your kite flying skills at this family favorite event. There will be face painting, crafts and much more! www.chicago.gov
Modernized Chicago 311 System Now Available

At the end of 2018, Mayor Emanuel announced the launch of a new CHI 311 system that is more accessible, transparent and user-friendly, making it even easier for residents to access City Services.

The new system was developed to:

- Improve the experience of Chicago residents by making it easier to find information, submit requests and track the status of requests.
- Give residents the ability to find information or submit requests through multiple media channels, including the city of Chicago's first-ever mobile app.
- Help residents stay up to date with requests as they move through the process.
- Provide convenience options to callers who would rather have a 311 operator call them back vs. waiting on hold.

CHI 311 completely transforms the resident experience for City Services through enhanced transparency into City operations. Once a resident submits a request, they can see the estimated completion date and get automatic updates when work is completed.

Plus, with the new CHI 311 mobile app (available from the Apple Store or Google Play), residents are able to create service requests, check the status of existing requests and the time it will take to resolve, snap a photo and submit it with the request, provide feedback upon completion of the service request, view other service requests in their neighborhood and throughout the city, and much more.

To see how it works, get answers to frequently asked questions or submit a City Services request using this new channel, visit 311.Chicago.gov.

Neighborhood Spotlight: Bridgeport

Bound by Chicago River South Branch to the North, Chicago River South Branch Fork to the West, Pershing to the South and the railroad tracks at Stewart to the East, Bridgeport was founded in 1836. It received its name from the bridge at the canal lock, where cargo needed to be transferred. The area acted as port.

Bridgeport has been home to five Chicago mayors: Edward Kelly, Martin Kennelly, Richard J. Daley, Michael Bilandic and Richard M. Daley.

Neighborhood Resources & Community Organizations

11th Ward, Alderman Patrick D. Thompson
3659 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, IL 60609
773-254-6677
ward11@cityofchicago.org

11th Police District, Commander Darrell F. Spencer
3151 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612
312-746-8386
CAPS.011District@chicagopolice.org

Chicago Youth Center
844 W. 32nd Street, Chicago, IL 60608
312-326-2282
www.chicagoyouthcenters.org

Wilson Community Center
3225 S. Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60608
312-747-7001
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

Richard J. Daley Branch Library
3400 S. Halsted Street, Chicago IL 60608
312-747-8990
www.chipublib.org
Protect Your Voucher: Understanding HCV Program Enforcement

Can you name all 40 HCV Program Family Obligations? Hear from the HCV Enforcement Team as they discuss how to avoid common mistakes when you receive an Intent to Terminate (ITT) notice, attend hearings, or even face termination.

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 | 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
CHA Central Office
60. E. Van Buren, Chicago, IL 60605

HCV Program Accommodations for Disability, Financial Hardship and Violence

Did you know that CHA offers policy accommodations to help HCV participants have equal access to housing? Learn from CHA staff about the different options that are available and what’s needed when you submit a request.

Thursday, April 25, 2019 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Beverly Branch Library
1962 W. 95th St., Chicago, IL 60643

Register to attend these events and see the full schedule at CHA-HCVevents.eventbrite.com.
To RSVP for HCV participant workshops by phone, please call 312-542-8881.

Disclaimer: All HCV participant workshops are free and open to all Program participants and property owners, as well as family, friends, neighbors, etc. However, material covered in these workshops is intended specifically for HCV Program participants and may not apply to all audiences. For more information, please contact hcvmarketing@thecha.org.