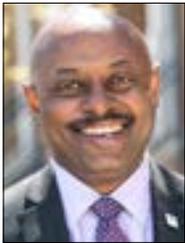




Message from the CEO



Greetings!

As the new school year gets underway and we ease into fall, it's time to take stock of all of the opportunities available to you and your family. This issue of Going Places has some good advice for all Chicagoans, including how to obtain the new Chicago Rx prescription benefit card to help save you and your family money, and tips for submitting a great rental application.

As always, this quarter's newsletter includes information on upcoming workshops for HCV participants and orientation sessions for CHA's Choose to Own Homeownership Program and Family Self Sufficiency Program. CHA offers many resources exclusive to its residents and voucher holders, so take advantage! They are designed with you and your family in mind.

We are excited to share these resources so that you can be an informed Program participant and citizen of Chicago.

Regards,



Eugene E. Jones, Jr., CEO

HCV Program Updates and Reminders

Walk-In Days Policy: Effective July 2 and October 1

Beginning July 2, the HCV West Office (2750 W. Roosevelt Road) implemented a Walk-In Client policy. The HCV South Office (10 W. 35th Street) and HCV Central Office (60 E. Van Buren Street) will transition to this same schedule on October 1, 2018.

Under this policy, walk-in clients requiring assistance from housing specialists and managers will only be seen on Mondays and Fridays. The office will be open by appointment only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. **Note:** Clients experiencing emergency situations will be accommodated, however wait times may vary. All clients may continue to drop off or pick up documents, utilize the resource room and schedule future appointments with the Receptionist on all open office days.

Lease Effective Dates Policy: Effective July 1

For all new moves executed on or after July 1, 2018, CHA will only accept leases where the lease effective date is either the 2nd or the 16th of the month. **Why?** To ensure that both the original property owner and the new property owner are paid appropriately when a HCV participant is moving between units.

Lead-Based Paint Regulations: Ongoing

The primary cause of childhood lead poisoning is the ingestion of deteriorated lead-based paint. Since the U.S. banned lead-based paint in 1978, this hazard is restricted to older homes. For more information about lead poisoning prevention, visit the city of Chicago Department of Public Health, Healthy Homes Program site: <https://bit.ly/2PdnRv5>.

Submitting a Great Rental Application

You've found a great unit — congratulations! Now it's time to submit a rental application to the property owner or manager, to start the leasing process. Here are a few reminders to help you complete a great rental application to secure that great unit!

Eligibility vs. Suitability

CHA screens HCV participants for eligibility to receive assistance through the Program. Property owners are responsible for screening prospective tenants for suitability to rent their unit. Different property owners have different screening processes — some require background checks, credit checks, proof of income, references, rental history, home visits, and more. Some only require a short, written application. Either way, it is perfectly normal for a property owner to ask for information about you and the other family members of your voucher, some of which you have already provided to CHA, in order to determine your suitability to rent.

The Leasing Relationship

It cannot be stressed enough: the landlord-tenant relationship is a business relationship! Treat rental applications with the same care and consideration that you would a job application. There may be many people going for the same unit — put your best foot forward!

Chicago Rx Benefits Available to All

The city of Chicago has launched Chicago Rx, a new prescription benefit program that provides discounts on prescription drugs and more. The Chicago Rx card is not insurance, and is not intended to replace insurance. However, the card is accepted at most major chain pharmacies in addition to many independent drug stores. Benefits include discounts on:

- More than 60,000 name-brand and generic prescription drugs, with savings of up to 80%
- Dental, vision, veterinarian, lab and diabetes supplies/equipment
- Pet prescriptions (participating pharmacies only)

The Chicago Rx card is free to all residents, regardless of age or income, and one card is good for the entire family. Plus, there are no limits as to how many times you can use the card!

Completing a Written Application

Rental applications are typically completed online or on a paper form. Either way, take your time in completing the application! If you can't provide specifically requested information, offer to provide an alternative.

- No check stubs? Offer direct deposit statements or letter from employer.
- Bad credit? Provide references and contact information of those that you pay regularly.
- Bad relationship with a previous property owner? Offer neighbor/community references.

Finally, remember that most property owners ask for an application fee to cover the cost of screening you. These non-refundable fees can sometimes be assessed per adult on the application, so budget accordingly!

What Happens Next?

Application processing and screening can take as little as 24 hours and as long as a few business days. If you haven't heard anything in two business days, contact the property owner to check on your application status.

Once you pass the property owner's screening, then it's time for the property owner to complete your RTA Packet and submit it to CHA to process your move.

There are several easy ways for you to get your free Chicago Rx card:

- Visit www.ChicagoRxCard.com to print, text or email your card instantly
- Visit any Chicago Public Library Branch
- Obtain your Chicago CityKey ID card from the Chicago City Clerk



Asset Building Opportunities Available

The **Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program** enables families to build financial assets while working toward educational, professional and personal goals.

While participants work toward goals, CHA manages a savings account to build your financial assets. When you meet goals and graduate from the program, you receive a payout of the funds accrued over your participation.

Join us for a FSS information session to find out more! Attendance is required to enroll in the FSS Program.

E&ES FamilyWorks, 3619 S. State Street, Ste. 302
Thursday, October 11 | 12 - 1 p.m.

Heartland Alliance, 400 W. 76th Street
Wednesday, October 3 | 3 - 4 p.m.
Saturday, October 13 | 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Tuesday, October 16 | 2 - 3 p.m.
Wednesday, October 24 | 9 - 10 a.m.

The **Choose to Own (CTO) Homeownership Program** provides families with the opportunity to own a home.

Most CTO families utilize the voucher to pay a portion of their mortgage — the same way families use a voucher to pay a portion of their rent. CHA helps families pay a portion of their monthly mortgage for up to 15 years (up to 30 years for seniors or people with disabilities).

Join us for a CTO orientation session to find out more! Attendance is required to enroll in the CTO Program.

Charles A. Hayes FIC, 4859 S. Wabash Avenue
Wednesday, October 10 | 4 - 5 p.m.

CHA Central Office, 60 E. Van Buren Street
Thursday, September 27 | 9 - 10 a.m.
Thursday, October 18 | 9 - 10 a.m.

For more information and future session dates, please visit www.thecha.org/residents/services.

Neighborhood Spotlight: West Pullman



Bound by 115th Street to the North, Ashland Avenue and Halsted Street to the West, the Little Calumet River to the South and the IC Railroad tracks to the East, West Pullman was founded in 1892 and incorporated as a Chicago community area in the 1920s. Over the years, the area has flourished and diminished, with the largest industrial boom coming post-World War II. Today, the Exelon and Sun Power Company plant, the largest solar plant in the United States, stands as one of the remaining industrial plants. West Pullman is also home to several historic residences, many designated as landmarks, and park land is abundant.

Neighborhood Resources & Community Organizations

9th Ward, Alderman Anthony A. Beale
34 E. 112th Place, Chicago, IL 60628
773-785-1100, www.ward09.com

34th Ward, Alderman Carrie M. Austin
507 W. 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60628
773-928-6961, ward34@cityofchicago.org

5th Police District, Commander Joel Howard
727 E. 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60628
312-747-8210, CAPS005District@chicagopolice.org

Ray & Joan Kroc Community Center
1250 W. 119th Street Chicago, IL 60643
773-995-0151, www.kroccenterchicago.com

DHS Family Community Resource Center
831 W. 119th Street, Chicago, IL 60643
773-660-7063, www.dhs.state.il.us

Phalanx Family Services
837 W. 119th Street, Chicago, IL 60643
773-291-1086, www.phalanxgroservices.org



Housing Choice Voucher Program
60 E. Van Buren
Chicago, IL 60605
www.thecha.org/residents



GOING PLACES

Q3 2018

Upcoming HCV Participant Workshops

How CHA Determines Rent for Voucher Holders

How does CHA determine Contract Rent offers?
Hint: It's not just the Payment Standard. Learn from CHA staff about how utilities, unit size, property location, market comparisons, and tenant affordability impact the calculations.

Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center
4859 S. Wabash Avenue
Tuesday, October 16 | 4 - 6 p.m.

Building a Positive Landlord-Tenant Relationship

Do you have a good relationship with your property owner/manager? Join our panel as they share some best practices for starting the relationship on positive terms, communicating effectively and troubleshooting issues.

CHA South Office
10 W. 35th Street, 5th Floor
Thursday, October 25 | 4 - 6 p.m.

***Register to attend these events and see the full schedule at CHA-HCEvents.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.

www.thecha.org/residents