

Welcome to “Our House” a resident newsletter designed to celebrate CHA residents and HCV participants, and give updates on programs and services. With our partners, the Resident Services team is here to support you and your family in achieving your goals. We are excited to share information and upcoming events with you each quarter. Enjoy!

## CHA Parents, Looking for Summer Activities?

### Looking for Summer Plans for Your Teen?



CHA provides provides paid summer opportunities to youth and young adults (ages 13-24). [CHA programs for 2024](#) include PeacePlayers Chicago - a basketball and leadership program, and Summer of Code in which participants will create an app for Apple!

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Ready to apply? Visit [One Summer Chicago](#) to submit your application. Applications close May 3rd, and applicants will be placed by May 30th.

Need assistance filling out the application? Join us at a [Kickback event](#) near you from now until May!

### \$15 Summer Day Camp (ages 6-12)

After obtaining a free Park District membership, parents can sign their 6-12 year-olds up for discounted summer day camp. For \$15 total, youth can attend day camp for the entire summer.

Residents of all ages with disabilities can attend Special Recreation Day Camp or Leisure Programs at any Chicago Park District location that offers these programs for up to \$15/session.

To apply online, residents must first visit their local park to sign up for a free membership before online registration for summer programs begins on Monday, April 15. Residents who sign up for a Park District membership after April 15 can still apply for summer camps in-person at their local park.

Summer camps will be available for viewing on starting April 8 at the [Chicago Park District](#). [Click here more for more information!](#)

### CHA Internship Program

CHA's Summer Internship Program is an 8-week program designed to provide opportunities for college students (both undergraduate and graduate) to participate in a professional environment, building workplace skills and gaining valuable experience in preparation for future employment.

**Dates:** June 17 - August 9, 2024  
**Hours:** 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
**Compensation:** \$15.80 per hour

Participants must be CHA residents. [Click here for more information and eligibility criteria!](#)

## We Want to Hear from You!

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) is interested in your experience on our website, [www.thecha.org](http://www.thecha.org).

We have created a short, secure survey to understand what tasks on the website are most important to you. It should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

The results from this survey will be used to make improvements to CHA's website. Your responses will be completely anonymous unless you choose to submit your email address to take part in future CHA research at the end of the survey.

**Please note that participation in this survey or other research activities is entirely optional and has no impact on your housing or waitlist status.**

The survey will close on April 21, 2024. [Take the survey now by clicking here.](#)

Thank you for participating!

## Program Events & Announcements



### Upcoming Event for Small Business Owners!

Join the Workforce Opportunity Resource Center (WORC) for the [WORC Table Talk with Bank of America](#) on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 12:00pm. This event will be in-person at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center, located at 4859 S. Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL 60615.

Abel Garcia, a Small Business Banker from Bank of America, will be sharing tips for establishing and maintaining good business banking relationships. This event will include tips for business owners opening their first small business account, as well as information for seasoned business owners. Abel and his team will also provide information about the Bank of America Charitable Foundation Request for Proposal (RFP) Grant that will be released in May.

[If you are interested, click here to register!](#)



### Calling all current and future college students!

The [Chicago Housing Authority Scholarship](#) application is open through **May 15th**. Selected recipients will receive an award of \$2,000. To be eligible for this award, students must be a high school senior or a college student pursuing an undergraduate degree (including certificates, associates, and/or bachelors).

To see the full list of eligibility criteria and learn more, [visit our website](#). Current scholarship awardees must reapply annually and are encouraged to do so.

### Attend City Colleges of Chicago for Free!

CHA residents are eligible to attend City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) at low or no cost. Attend [one of our information session webinars](#) to learn how to get you started on a path to further your education and career goals.

- Current college student looking to take summer courses at CCC? [Click here to register!](#)
- All other interested residents can [click here to register!](#)

### Currently Recruiting for Family Community Ambassadors!

For residents at Public Housing buildings, Ambassadors who complete the required 40 hours per month receive a rent credit (up to \$100) for their service. Types of work include distributing flyers for upcoming events, conducting observations/walkthroughs of their development, and assisting and promoting community events and activities. Interested residents can contact April N. Davis at 312-913-7416 or their Local Advisory Council Office.

### Down Payment Assistance Program Re-opened!

Applications for the Down Payment Assistance program have re-opened! For eligible households, the Down Payment Assistance program provides a forgivable grant towards the purchase of a home of \$20,000 for CHA residents/participants and \$10,000 for non-CHA residents. To learn more, [visit our website](#) or send us [an email](#).

### April is National Financial Literacy Month!

CHA's LevelUp program will coach you on the importance of financial literacy and building smart money management habits. [Learn more or join our waitlist today!](#)



### Resident Spotlight: Genae Whitley

Genae Whitley graduated from the LevelUp program in March 2024. During her time in the program, Ms. Whitley obtained an associate degree, completed 10 financial education courses, and secured employment with Chicago Public Schools as a substitute teacher. Ms. Whitley is an advocate for LevelUp, encouraging other residents to join, and agreeing to participate in an upcoming promotional video to share her successes with the program.

### Relocation Rights Contract (RRC) Updates and Information Session

If you were a CHA leaseholder on October 1, 1999 and still maintain a Right of Return, please join us on May 16<sup>th</sup> to meet with a program specialist to discuss the RRC, your housing choice survey, and newly rehabilitated or redeveloped housing units. 5:30pm-7:30pm at 4859 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60615. To RSVP or for questions, contact 312-786-3104.

### Attention Seniors: New Provider for Resident Services Coordinator!

Beginning earlier this month, Metropolitan Family Services began providing resident coordination services in CHA senior buildings! If you have any questions about the RSC program, please call (312) 913-7164.

## Which CHA program is right for you? I want to...

### ...Build Wealth

Interested in building financial assets while working toward educational, personal, and professional goals? To learn more about our LevelUp program, please join our next information session! Sessions take place on Tuesdays from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm and Thursdays from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. [Click here to learn more or register for an information session!](#)

### ...Improve Computer Skills

Learn computer skills! No prior experience or materials required. Self-paced computer skills training for CHA residents and HCV participants offered online or at the Charles Hayes Family Investment Center computer lab (4859 S. Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL 60615) every Thursday from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Earn certificates in these topics: Basic Computer Skills, Internet Basics, Email, Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Google Docs, and more! **To register, please call the digital inclusion hotline at 312-786-6601.**

### ...Buy a HOME

CHA offers two pathways to homeownership. The first is our Choose to Own Homeownership program (CTO) which allows qualified Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Public Housing families to use their housing subsidy to buy a home and receive monthly assistance with a portion of their mortgage payment. The second is the new Down Payment Assistance (DPA) program that assists first time home buyers with a forgivable grant to aid with down-payment and closing costs. [Click here to see if you are eligible or to sign up for an orientation today!](#)

### ...Pursue My Education

CHA public housing residents and Housing Choice Voucher participants can obtain a degree or certificate from City Colleges of Chicago at low or no cost through the Partners in Education (PiE) program. Eligible expenses include tuition, uniforms, books, and exam fees. [Sign up to attend an info session today!](#)

### ...Move to a New Neighborhood

The Mobility Counseling Program assists families (with at least one youth up to age 16) in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program to move into Mobility Areas within the city of Chicago. Mobility Areas are community areas with poverty levels below 20% and low violent crime rates. [Click here to learn more!](#)

### ...Find a Career

If you are job-ready and interested in getting hired, Employment Placement Services is here for you. You will be matched with a career coach who will work with you one-on-one. Our team will help you develop your resume, prepare for interviews, and succeed on the job. [Click here to learn more and see current job opportunities!](#)

