



NICOLE SMITH

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER SUCCESS STORY

Meet Nicole Smith, a Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Housing Choice Voucher holder who has recently completed the Community Health Worker (CHW) Program provided by The Council on Black Health. Nicole learned about the CHW training through an email from the Workforce Opportunity Resource Center (WORC). Nicole completed an 80-hour practicum at UCAN, where she served as a Residential Treatment Specialist. "I worked with the youth, answering their questions, and directing them to resources. This was a great opportunity to learn how to build relationships, and it made me feel more comfortable becoming a CHW." Now, as a Community Health Worker with the South Side Health Community Organization (SSHCO), Nicole makes \$23 an hour and works from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Her responsibilities include meeting with patients, enrolling them in programs, conducting assessments, entering data, performing outreach, and connecting individuals to essential resources.

When asked what she would say to other CHA residents about workforce opportunities, Nicole said, "Go for it and don't hesitate to ask questions. "I'm so grateful that I was chosen for the CHW program. One of the best decisions I've ever made was reading the WORC newsletters and checking the emails they send out about the resources they offer. I could not have done this without CHA. Thank you so much." If you want to learn more about workforce opportunities and trainings, please contact the WORC office at worc@thecha.org for more information.

WORC FALL HIRING EVENT

Come out and attend the Chicago Housing Authority's Workforce Opportunity Resource Center Fall Hiring Event. Professional attire is strongly encouraged. Bring copies of your most updated resume. There will be job opportunities for Adults and Seniors. We will help you land that job you need now!

OCTOBER 3, 2024 | 10AM-2PM

Registration Link
bit.ly/WORCFHE



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Shakita joined the Business Academy in the summer of 2024 and will be graduating from the WORC Business Academy in September. She came to the business academy with a vision of starting a clothing boutique specializing in custom jackets for women. However, through a profound journey of self-discovery, she uncovered her true calling: Domestic Violence Counseling. Embracing this newfound passion, we helped her pivot her business focus to align with her heart's desire, integrating her creative talents into the field of domestic violence support. Recognizing her deep love for art, we encouraged her to pursue certification in art therapy, empowering her to combine her artistic flair with her dedication to helping survivors. In a beautiful blend of her original business idea and her new path, Shakita will create and sell the "SURVIVOR" jacket, a powerful symbol of resilience, on her website and through her business. She completed a rigorous 40-hour training program during the 12-week academy, becoming a Certified Domestic Violence Counselor. As she prepares to take her Board certification exam on September 25, 2024, she has already secured an opportunity to provide counseling at Grace House, just 2 miles from her home. There, she will accumulate 150 hours of service, further preparing her for the exam. She is planning to launch her own Domestic Violence Counseling Agency next year, where she will offer independent contracting services to organizations supporting victims, conduct training for corporations and schools on domestic violence prevention, and speak at events as an expert in the field. In a unique niche, she will also provide art therapy at her agency, offering a healing outlet for those in need. Shakita's journey has been nothing short of inspiring. If you are interested in developing your inspiring business idea, please contact the WORC office at worc@thecha.org for more information.

WORC INFO SESSIONS

Thursday, September 12, 2024

11:00am - 12:00pm

VIA ZOOM

Register Here To Attend

bit.ly/WORCIS9



Wednesday, September 18, 2024

11:00am - 12:00pm

4859 S. Wabash Ave

Chicago, IL 60615

Register Here To Attend

bit.ly/WORC924

WORC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS

Master Small Purchase Quotes! Key Components, Fee Form, Submission Requirements, and Easy Access to CHA Forms!

Responding To A Small Purchase Quote Request

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 11am

bit.ly/3M1c95n

Empower Your Business in Chicago! Get MBE/WBE Certified and Unlock Opportunities for Minority and Women Entrepreneurs!

MBE/WBE Certification with the City of Chicago

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 2pm

bit.ly/MWBESEP24