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Resident Business Academy

Start and grow your business with WORC Business Academy's 12-week program—mentorship, coaching, and grants available!

[Get Started with the Business Academy!](#)

Program Overview

The WORC Business Academy is a program that helps CHA residents start or grow their own business. The academy offers a 12-week program where participants learn important skills like how to plan a business, understand finances, and market their products.

During the program, participants get one-on-one coaching, mentoring, and chances to network with others. By the end, they will have created a business plan. If they finish the program, they might qualify for a grant of up to \$5,000 to help start their business. The academy also teaches how to set clear goals and make sure the business is legally ready and financially strong.

The Business Academy is held on Tuesdays from 6pm to 9pm.

Benefits of the Program

- one-on-one coaching and mentoring
- business development workshops and seminars
- networking opportunities
- cohort of other CHA residents pursuing a similar goal

Eligibility for the Program

- CHA residents living in public housing or Housing Choice Voucher participants.

Getting Started with the Business Academy!

The Business Academy cohorts begin in the spring, summer, and fall. If outside the sign up windows, please email us at worc@thecha.org to be notified when the next cohort opens.

1. Attend an Information Session

The Business Academy cohorts begin in the spring, summer, and fall. If there is an available information session, you can sign up [here](#). If not and you are interested in attending an info session, please email us at worc@thecha.org to be notified when the next cohort opens.

2. After your info session, complete your application.

Check back in January 2025 for the application.

3. Wait to hear back and attend an orientation.

After you submit your application, the WORC office will get back to you by two weeks before the cohort start date. If accepted, you will be invited to an orientation to start your new class!

Similar programs you may be eligible for



[Employment Placement Services](#)

If you are ready to find a job and want to be hired, the EPS program is here for you. Connect with an experienced Employment Placement Services provider to receive one-on-one help.

CITY COLLEGES[®] OF CHICAGO

Partners in Education

CHA residents can earn a certificate or a degree from City Colleges of Chicago for free or low cost. This is possible through a partnership with CCC called Partners in Education (PiE).



Section 3 Jobs

Businesses that get money from HUD (like for building projects or other federal help) must offer job training, jobs, and contracts to people with low or very low incomes.