

Welcome to “Our House” a new 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!

College Scholarship Application Opens January 31st!



Mikhylla Appling
Spelman College
2023 Recipient

Calling all current and future college students! The Chicago Housing Authority Scholarship application will go live on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. 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.

Upcoming Events



Interested in starting a business?

The Spring Cohort of the WORC Business Academy kicks off on March 6th! Join us at an in-person or virtual orientation to learn about the 12-week program. Participants will receive one-on-one coaching and guidance on developing a business plan and preparing to get their business license. [Click here to sign up today!](#)

Congratulations to the graduates of WORC's Business Academy Spring and Summer Cohorts!

- Earlean Braggs** (Emmers Soul Kitchen)
- Lavone Starling** (Burgundy Star Massage & Wellness)
- Eboni Dabney** (A Mom Like Me)
- Jasmine Mayberry** (The Cakery)
- Latasha Lee** (Butter-Lee)
- Morell Howard** (Morell Howard Real Estate & Associates)
- Phyllis Foster** (Phyllis' Creations)
- Sonya Moore** (Yours Truly Braiding)
- Thonequea Easley** (Tommie Lee's)
- Tiffany Coats** (Good Vibe Onlay!)



5-week Computer Essentials Course (ages 50+)

Join us for this [5-week course](#) to learn the essentials of how to use the basic functions of a personal computer, how to navigate the internet, and how to send and receive email. Beginning on **January 16th**, the course meets twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am - 11:15 am at the Charles Hayes Family Investment Center Computer Lab (4859 S Wabash Ave Chicago, IL 60615). [Click here to register!](#)

New Senior Fitness Program

Announcing the free Senior Fitness Program at XS Tennis (5336 S. State St. Chicago, IL 60609) on Wednesdays from 10 am - Noon! Activities include open play tennis, open play pickleball, track walking, and access to an exercise room.

Interested in Free Internet?

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) can help you save up to \$30/month on internet service and provides a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet. [Click here](#) or call **312-913-7979** for more information!

Which are you most interested in?

Job Training and Placement

Education Opportunities

Wealth Building and Financial Literacy

Programs for Youth

Childcare and Early Education

Relocating to a New Neighborhood

Buying a Home

Improving Computer Skills

Health and Wellness

Other/Not Listed

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

...Build Wealth

Interested in building financial assets while working toward educational, professional, and personal 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 312-913-7979.**

...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

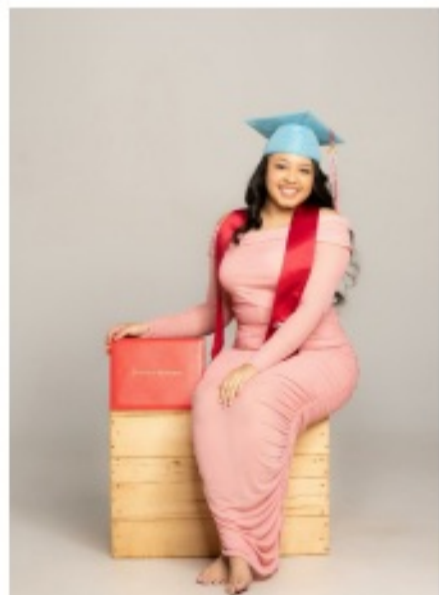
The Mobility Counseling Program assists families (with at least one youth up to age 16) in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program to move into Mobility Areas within the city of Chicago. Mobility Areas are community areas with poverty levels below 20% and low violent crime rates. [Click here to learn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

...Find a Career

Employment applications for the CHA Summer Food Program will open March 1 - March 31. Residents will have the chance to earn a City of Chicago Food Sanitation License and ServSafe Managers Certificate. [Save this link to apply starting March 1st!](#)

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!](#)

Celebrations and Achievements



Alannah Martin, CHA resident and Kenwood Academy graduate, was named a 2023 Gates Scholar! The Gates Scholarship is a highly selective, full cost-of-attendance scholarship and even provides scholars with a free laptop. Alannah is using this scholarship to attend UCLA, pursuing a biology degree on a pre-medicine track. When asked about the scholarship, she said, "This scholarship has truly changed my life and helped me achieve my dreams."



25-year-old Alfred Lott of Park Boulevard completed his training at the Cook County's Sheriff Department, becoming the first in his family to join the law enforcement career. Alfred said that he didn't envision this line of work for himself growing up as a youth in Stateway Gardens, but that "God has a way of creating dreams you never knew you could manifest." Alfred holds a bachelor's degree from Rust College in Business Management and African American Studies.



Lemar Gladney, resident at Elizabeth Wood, completed the Digital Skills Ready@50 program, sponsored in partnership with Senior Planet from AARP. While Mr. Gladney had to skip the program earlier in the year due to health reasons, he persevered, signing up when the program returned in September and earning a certificate.



40th Annual Senior Gala

On More than 1,500 seniors attended the 2023 Senior Gala on Saturday, December 9th at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The 40th anniversary celebration featured special guests including Mayor Brandon Johnson with entertainment by Terisa Griffin and DJ Cisco!

Other Program Achievements!

In received, nearly 900 seniors coats at the inaugural 2023 Senior Winter Coat Giveaway. Coats were generously donated by the Reva & David Logan Foundation.

The Summer Food Service Program served 29,270 nutritious meals to youth (ages 1 to 18) in 2023 at 25 traditional public housing developments. This was made possible through a partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

CHA residents selected for new training programs!

- 10 residents have been selected to participate in a 5-week Community Health Worker training sponsored by the Council on Black Health.
- Six CHA residents have been selected to participate in UI Health's Dental Assistant Program starting January 10th.
- Two CHA residents have been selected to attend the T-Mobile NEXTTECH Broadband Telecom training beginning January 2024, which prepares participants for high-demand telecom jobs.

[Click here to connect with our workforce teams!](#)

