

Partnership Update

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The Partnership for New Communities awards \$475,000 centered on employment programs

The Partnership for New Communities recently awarded \$475,000 in new grants to six Chicago nonprofit organizations. Most will advance the cutting-edge jobs programs of [Opportunity Chicago](#), a \$25.9 million workforce development initiative of the City of Chicago, [Chicago Housing Authority](#) (CHA), Chicago Jobs Council and other partners. The bulk of the remaining funds will support neighborhood development activities on the Near West Side.

Two organizations – [Central States SER](#) (\$300,000) and the [Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation/TEC Services](#) (\$100,000) – will deliver intensive employment training to low-skilled workers that will prepare them for jobs in healthcare and information technology (IT), respectively.

Both projects are part of Opportunity Chicago, which aims to place 5,000 public-housing residents in employment over five years (2006-2010) and to make lasting improvements to Chicago's workforce development system. Nearly 4,000 residents already have been placed in jobs. With metropolitan Chicago's unemployment rate at over 11 percent – the highest since 1983 – Opportunity Chicago also is helping to position low-skilled, low-income workers for success during the economic recovery.

Central States SER, a previous Partnership grantee, will provide job training to 116 public-housing residents through its healthcare careers "bridge" program, which gets trainees up to speed on literacy, computer and other basic skills in preparation to train for entry-level positions in healthcare. Ultimately, 40 individuals will be placed in jobs as a result of the program.

The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation (CCCCF) and TEC Services, Inc. will work with the CHA to develop a new IT job training program. CCCC will tap its network to engage employers in the program, CHA will reach out residents with information about the new opportunity, and TEC Services will use its expertise to deliver the training. Around 250 residents will be placed in and retain jobs in the technology field over a span of three years. TEC works with area technology companies to provide real work experience for its trainees and generate some operating revenue to support the program. Participants receive training in line with the U.S. Department of Labor's IT industry apprenticeship standards, and those who successfully complete the program will receive industry certifications from Microsoft and CompTIA. The Partnership's funds will also help TEC qualify for matching funds through the State of Illinois Digital Divide Grant Program.

A third grant – \$50,000 to [Near West Side Community Development Corporation](#) (Near West) – will support ongoing efforts to revitalize the local economy. Past Partnership support of Near West's Madison Retail Revitalization Initiative resulted in the recent rebirth of the Madison-Western Chamber Commerce, a major milestone in the transformation of the community.

The Partnership also is contributing \$5,000 to support a Brandeis University study of the effectiveness of summer youth jobs programs around the country that were funded by federal stimulus dollars, or, formally, the America Reinvestment and Recovery Act. The Youth Ready Chicago summer jobs program served thousands of local young people, including more than 850 who reside in public-housing. ■

City's \$1 billion stimulus allotment guided by Chicago philanthropic community;

The Partnership plays lead role in workforce development strategy

"Steering Stimulus Funds in the Right Direction"

Chicago Sun-Times, 6/8/09



JUNE 8, 2009

Steering Stimulus Funds in Right Direction

By Laura Washington

"A Stream of Hope?"

The Chronicle of Philanthropy, 5/21/09

THE CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY

A Stream of Hope?

Many charity leaders see a lifeline in the federal stimulus law, but others worry smaller groups will be left out

As federal stimulus dollars get doled out around the country, Chicago's approach to disbursing its own \$1.1 billion infusion has attracted attention.

Mayor Richard M. Daley turned to The Chicago Community Trust, led by President and CEO Terry Mazany, to organize an effort to ensure the city's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – aka "stimulus" – funds are spent effectively. The since-named "Recovery Partnership" is aligning city officials, foundations and other key players to make certain that stimulus dollars don't come and go without long-term economic impact – a risk that comes with a sudden but isolated burst of funding.

Foundations involved in the Recovery Partnership also are helping the City apply for \$800 million of competitive funding available through ARRA.

Maria Hibbs, Executive Director of The Partnership for New Communities, and the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation's Sharon Bush are co-leading the Workforce Development Committee, one of numerous committees organized under the Recovery Partnership.

Two recent articles (at left) highlight Chicago's stimulus strategy. ■

Homebuyers get a new "incentive" through *Find Your Place in Chicago*

Organizers have taken a new tack designed to keep the *Find Your Place in Chicago* home-buyer incentive program on course.

Find Your Place offers a bundle of financial incentives – including a \$10,000 cash grant from The Partnership for New Communities – to buyers who purchase homes in one of five brand-new developments in the Near North, Near West and Mid-South Sides of the city.



"Despite the depressed market, *Find Your Place* is putting beautiful homes in great neighborhoods within reach for a lot of people," said Maria Hibbs, Executive Director of The Partnership. "We want to make sure they can take advantage of these great incentives."

So The Partnership and other *Find Your Place* collaborators decided to bring on a "financing facilitator" – someone dedicated to walking buyers through the purchase process and troubleshooting issues with banks and developers. Alan Maynie was recently hired to fill the role and is working to increase the

pace of sales and ensure that current deals make their way to closing.

Maynie's background in both finance and real estate equips him to navigate buyers through all phases of a purchase, interface with developers and lenders to pre-empt or sort out snags in the process, and help buyers maximize the special incentives available through *Find Your Place*.

"I've been on both ends, and I know what banks and developers need from buyers to make a sale happen," said Maynie. "Financing a home can be complicated, especially in today's environment, and I'm helping people move confidently through the process step by step and take advantage of the incentives along the way."

Launched in September 2008, *Find Your Place* has found success, but prospective homebuyers face more than the usual challenges and complexities associated with financing a home purchase due to current economic conditions.

Hired in August, one of Maynie's first objectives is to make more lending institutions aware of the program and get them on board. While *Find Your Place* is marketed to homebuyers, banks benefit, too.

"The fact is, in addition to being a resource to prospective homebuyers, I'm helping banks bring in new business through *Find Your Place*," said Maynie. "There's potential for everybody to win here."

[More information about Find Your Place in Chicago.](#) ■

City unanimously approves Reconnecting Neighborhoods plan

Good transit and retail are cornerstones of healthy, desirable urban neighborhoods. Now three Chicago communities are closer to having more of both.

The Chicago Plan Commission took a much anticipated and welcome step this summer when it unanimously approved the Reconnecting Neighborhoods recommendations to help the Near West, Near North and Mid-South Sides reintegrate into the city through better public transit, pedestrian access and commercial development.



**RECONNECTING
Neighborhoods**

A public-private partnership led by Metropolitan Planning Council, Regional Transit Authority and consulting firm HNTB, Reconnecting Neighborhoods looked specifically at improving transit-oriented development around three of the Chicago Housing Authority's new mixed-income developments linked to the

Plan for Transformation, a bold effort to reinvent public housing. MPC documented the input of many stakeholders, including residents, to shape the recommendations.

The Partnership for New Communities provided funding that helped launch the initiative, which now receives support from the 2016 Fund for Chicago Neighborhoods, a fund established to ensure that the 2016 Olympic Games, if held in Chicago, have a long-term beneficial impact on the city's neighborhoods.

Reconnecting Neighborhoods received national attention, and MPC hopes to use its success to position Illinois to be competitive for some of the new government and philanthropic funds supporting coordination of housing, transportation and jobs.

[Learn more at MPC's web site.](#)

[Read Reconnecting Neighborhoods Final Report.](#) ■

The New York Times quotes the Chicago Jobs Council on 'green jobs'

A recent New York Times article about the future of U.S. renewable energy industry jobs quotes Meghan Moses, senior policy associate at Chicago Jobs Council, on how the economic recession impacts the lowest-skilled workers' chance to tap "green" job opportunities. The Partnership for New Communities is working with Chicago Jobs Council and other partners on a weatherization job training program for public-housing residents, funded by Living Cities. [Read the New York Times article.](#) ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Connect 4: Promoting Community Togetherness**



The first annual Connect 4 event will celebrate the positive changes taking place in four 4th Ward neighborhoods in and around Bronzeville: North Kenwood, Oakland, Douglas and Grand Boulevard. A community open house and forum, Connect 4 will feature speakers, a visual exhibit of neighborhood achievements, and light refreshments.

Presented by Quad Communities Development Corporation and United Bronzeville Businesses, The Partnership is pleased to be a Connect 4 sponsor. More information.

When: Saturday, September 26 – 12:00pm-5:00pm

Where: The Gabriella Building: 4310 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago

- **Workshop: Introducing the Illinois L3C**

When: Tuesday, October 6, 2:00-4:00pm

Where: DLA Piper, 203 N. LaSalle Street, 15th floor Conference Center, Chicago

Advanced registration required.

The Community Economic Development Law Project invites you to a free seminar on the new L3C structure for socially beneficial businesses.

The new "low-profit limited liability company" (L3C) is a cross between a nonprofit, charitable organization and a for-profit limited liability company. Unlike a regular limited liability company, an L3C's primary purpose is to provide an important social benefit rather than to generate an economic profit. Unlike a nonprofit organization, however, an L3C is free to distribute profits, after taxes, to owners or investors of the company. The L3C is expected to revitalize certain Illinois businesses by attracting more investments from foundations and other philanthropic ventures.

Presenter: Marc J. Lane, from the Law Offices of Marc J. Lane, P.C., was a force behind Illinois' L3C legislation. Mr. Lane is an AV-rated attorney, author of over 30 books on corporate management, taxation and personal finance as well as socially responsible investing.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Space is very limited - please register by October 1st!

To register, send an email to cedlp@cedlp.org with your: (1) full name, (2) organization or business name, (3) email address, and (4) phone number.

ARTICLE LINKS

The Partnership for New Communities awards \$475,000 centered on employment programs

Opportunity Chicago: <http://www.opportunitychicago.org/>

Chicago Housing Authority: <http://www.thecha.org/>

Central States SER: <http://www.centralstatesser.org/>

Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation:

<http://www.chicagolandchamber.org/YourChamber/ChicagolandChamberFoundation/Pages/default.aspx>

Near West Side CDC: <http://www.nearwestsidecdc.org/display.aspx?pointer=2473>

City's \$1 billion stimulus allotment guided by Chicago philanthropic community

- Chicago Community Trust: <http://www.cct.org/>
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation <http://www.fryfoundation.org/index.html>
- "Steering Stimulus Funds in the Right Direction" Chicago Sun-Times - <file:///P:/Partnership%20Update/Partnership%20Update%202009/September%202009/Chicago%20Sun%20Times%20-%20Steering%20Stimulus%20Funds%20in%20Right%20Direction%20Article%20Reprint.pdf>
- "A Stream of Hope" article from Chronicle of Philanthropy: <http://philanthropy.com/free/articles/v21/i15/15000601.htm>

Chicago Jobs Council quoted in New York Times 'green jobs' article

- New York Times article: <http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2009/08/14/14climatewire-growing-green-jobs-is-a-long-term-task-advoc-28651.html?scp=1&sq=growing%20%27green%27%20jobs&st=cse>

Homebuyers get a new "incentive" through Find Your Place in Chicago

Find Your Place in Chicago: <http://www.findyourplaceinchicago.org/>

City unanimously approves Reconnecting Neighborhoods plan

- Reconnecting Neighborhoods: <http://www.reconnectingneighborhoods.org/>
- Metropolitan Planning Council: <http://www.metroplanning.org/>
- Regional Transit Authority: <http://www.rtachicago.com/>
- HNTB: <http://www.hntb.com/>
- Chicago Housing Authority: <http://www.thecha.org/>
- CHA Plan for Transformation: http://www.thecha.org/pages/the_plan_for_transformation/22.php
- Metropolitan Planning Council article on Reconnecting Neighborhoods: <http://www.metroplanning.org/articleDetail.asp?objectID=4997&keyword=reconnecting+neighborhoods>
- Final Report: http://www.metroplanning.org/cmadoocs/ReconnectingNeighborhoods_Final_0809_ProjectOverview.pdf

Upcoming Events

- Connect 4: Promoting Community Togetherness: <http://www.qcdc.org/calendar.aspx?pointer=8817>
- Workshop: Introducing the Illinois L3C: http://www.clccrul.org/projects/community_economic_development_law_project.html

The Partnership for New Communities is a fund created by leading civic institutions and businesses to support the success of the Chicago Housing Authority's sweeping Plan for Transformation. The Partnership raises money and invests it in economic development, community building and employment-related initiatives to bring about large-scale improvements to the neighborhoods most affected by public housing transformation.

Partnership Update is published regularly by The Partnership for New Communities to provide information on our activities that we feel is of interest and value to our network. It may include status updates on the CHA's Plan for Transformation, highlights of our grantees' work and relevant research findings.

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The Chicago Community Trust www.cct.org
ComEd, an Exelon Company www.comed.com
The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation www.fryfoundation.org
Jack M. and Donna L. Greenberg Philanthropic Fund
Harris Bank www.harrisbank.com
Hibbs Family Charitable Gift Fund
The Joyce Foundation www.joycefdn.org
Living Cities www.livingcities.org
Susan Lloyd
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McCormick Foundation www.mccormickfoundation.org
National Fund for Workforce Solutions www.nfwsolutions.org
NOI Strategies www.noistrategies.com
Northern Trust www.northerntrust.com
Peoples Gas www.peoplesenergy.com
Polk Bros Foundation www.polkbrosfdn.org