

JUST HOUSING INITIATIVE

Fast Facts

June 2017

We are calling for a countywide amendment that will ensure that people with records have equal access to stable housing opportunities.

The Just Housing Amendment will:

- Ban discrimination in real estate transactions based on one's covered criminal history
- Help reduce recidivism and make Cook County a safer place
- Protect children and families from the consequences of housing instability
- Protect people who were arrested but never convicted of a crime

This isn't a new idea

Other jurisdictions in Illinois already offer protections for people with records. In municipalities like Urbana, IL, people with records are considered a protected class in housing-related transactions, and the use of criminal histories in housing decisions is expressly prohibited.

This is a common sense, basic step

We all want to live in a fair, safe community where people can build good lives.



cafha.net/just-housing-initiative

1 in 3 Americans has an arrest record



Nearly 50% of children have a parent with a record



Housing policies that ban people with records harm people of color and people with disabilities the most



People re-entering their communities with access to stable housing are 7xs less likely to end up back in prison than those facing homelessness



Home is the cornerstone from which people build better lives for themselves and their families. People with records, like everyone else, deserve a place to call home.

Fact sources: The Sentencing Project, Vera Institute of Justice, Center for American Progress

-Just Housing Initiative Supporters-

Access Living	Ford Heights Community Service Organization	NAMI Chicago
Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance	Greater West Town Training Partnership	National Fair Housing Alliance
All Chicago	Growing Home Inc.	National Housing Law Project
Apna Ghar	Health and Medicine Policy Research Group	Nehemiah Trinity Rising
Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Chicago	Heartland Alliance for Human Rights and Human Needs	Northwest Side Housing Center
Bethel New Life	HOPE Fair Housing Center	Northwestern Rethink Relink Chicago!
Block Together	Housing Action Illinois	Oak Park Regional Housing Center
Breakthrough Urban Ministries	Housing Choice Partners	ONE Northside
Business and Professional People for the Public Interest	Housing Forward	Open Communities
Cabrini Green Legal Aid	Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy at Roosevelt University	People for Community Recovery
CAIR-Chicago	Independent Voters of Illinois- Independent Precinct Organization	Project Irene
Charles P. Fischbach, Former Commissioner, City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations	Inspiration Corporation	Respond Now
Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice	James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy	Restaurant Opportunities Center
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance	Jane Adams Senior Caucus	Safer Foundation
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	Jewish Council on Urban Affairs	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Chicago Community Bond Fund	John Howard Association of Illinois	SEIU Healthcare Illinois
Chicago Council of Lawyers	John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Clinic	Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP)
Chicago House and Social Service Agency	Justice and Witness Ministry, of the Chicago Metropolitan Association, United Church of Christ	Southwest Organizing Project
Chicago Jobs Council	Kenwood Oakland Community Organization	Streetwise
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law	Latino Policy Forum	Strengthening Chicago's Youth
Chicago Urban League	Latin United Community Housing Association (LUCHA)	Supportive Housing Providers Association of Illinois
Coalition for Equitable Community Development	Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing	TASC, Inc.
Community Renewal Society	Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services	The Next Movement
Connections for the Homeless	Lincoln Park Community Services	Thresholds
Communities United	Mothers Against Senseless Killings	Trilogy
Corporation for Supportive Housing	Mental Health America of Illinois	Uptown People's Law Center
Deborah's Place	Mental Health Summit	United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations
Evanston Northshore NAACP	Metropolitan Tenants Organization	Westside Health Authority
EZRA Multi-Service Center	Northside Housing and Supportive Services	Woodstock Institute
Facing Forward to End Homelessness		Working Family Solidarity
First Congregational UCC, Evanston		

