



**ILLINOIS HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
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For Immediate Release

Thursday, October 23, 2025

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Illinois Housing Development Authority Invests \$6 Million to Strengthen Housing Counseling and Grow Pathways to Sustainable Homeownership

CHICAGO – The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) announced that 30 housing counseling agencies will receive \$6 million in grant funding to expand financial education, pre-purchase homebuyer education, and foreclosure prevention counseling services for thousands of Illinois families.

“Behind every home is a story, a family working hard to put down roots, a parent striving to give their children stability, or a first-time buyer dreaming of a place to call their own,” **said IHDA Executive Director Kristin Faust**. “This investment from FHLBank Chicago ensures that more Illinoisans, especially those historically locked out of the housing market, will have the tools, guidance, and support they need to succeed. Homeownership should not be out of reach for anyone willing to work toward it, and together we are breaking down barriers to make that dream possible.”

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBank Chicago) created and funded the Housing Counseling Resource Program (HCRP) to expand capacity for housing counseling services to serve traditionally low- to moderate-income and underrepresented households. IHDA administers the program on behalf of the State of Illinois and, since launching in 2022, HCRP has assisted 37,000 Illinois households, including more than 3,500 first-time homebuyers successfully purchase a home.

“Together with IHDA, we’re expanding pathways to successful and sustainable homeownership across Illinois,” said **Katie Naftzger, Senior Vice President and Community Investment Officer at FHLBank Chicago**. “Housing counseling provides families with the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions and create stability that lasts.”

HCRP grantee agencies are available virtually throughout Illinois and can provide in-person counseling in more than 40 counties across the state. This grant allows the housing counseling agencies to better equip Illinoisans with the practical tools to:

- Build credit readiness and financial literacy
- Access down payment assistance and affordable mortgage programs
- Understand property taxes and insurance and gather helpful tips on maintaining your home
- Protect their homes through foreclosure prevention counseling

"The Housing Counseling Resource Program has played a huge role in helping the Embarras River Basin Agency (ERBA) continue to support individuals and families looking for safe, stable, and affordable housing," **said Sandy Deters, Housing Counseling Coordinator at ERBA.** "With IHDA's support, we've been able to provide the kind of counseling that really makes a difference, helping people understand their options and make confident decisions about their housing. This funding will allow us to deepen our impact over the next two years, reaching more households and strengthening the communities we serve. Additionally, because of the HCRP grant, we were able to leverage these funds as a match to secure two additional grants bringing \$130,000 in home repair assistance to families in our area."

Should an HCRP participant be ready to become a homeowner, the counseling agencies will educate them on the [IHDA Access Mortgage](#) programs that are available to both first-time and repeat homebuyers. Available statewide, each mortgage option comes with an affordable, fixed interest rate and up to \$10,000 to assist eligible borrowers with their down payment and closing costs for the purchase of a new or existing home. These programs not only increase affordability but also help buyers enter the market sooner and build equity faster.

Contact information for each organization is available on IHDA's website [here](#). If you or someone you know is looking to buy a home in Illinois or struggling with their mortgage payment, contact an HCRP grantee to receive assistance today.

Housing Counseling Resource Program Grantees

Housing Counseling Agency	Service Area
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council	Cook County
CEDA	Cook County
Chicago Urban League	Chicago
Chinese American Service League	Chicago
Community Investment Corporation of Decatur, Inc.	Decatur, Macon, Christian, and Logan County
Community Partners for Affordable Housing	Lake County and Northern Cook County

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Northern Illinois, Inc.	Cook, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, and DuPage County
Embarras River Basin Agency Inc.	Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland County
Far South Community Development Corporation	Chicago and St. Clair County
GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment	Chicago
Greater Southwest Development Corporation	Chicago
HOME DuPage	DuPage County
Justine PETERSEN	Champaign, Madison, and St. Clair County
Lake County Housing Authority	Cook, Lake, and McHenry Counties
LUCHA	Chicago
METEC	Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Stark, Knox, Fulton, and Mason County
Mid Central Community Action	McLean and Livingston Counties
Navicore	Peoria County (All IL Counties virtually)
Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Inc.	Cook County
Northside Community Development Corporation	Cook County, DuPage, Lake, Will, and Kane County
Northwest Side Housing Center	Cook County
Open Communities	Northern Cook County
Region 1 Planning Council	Stephenson, Winnebago, and Boone County
Restoration America Inc.	Kane and McHenry County
Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation	Rock Island County, Mercer County, Whiteside County, Carroll County, Jo Daviess County, Ogle County, and Sangamon County
South Suburban Housing Center	SW Cook, Will, and Kankakee Counties
Spanish Coalition for Housing	Cook, Lake, McHenry, Kane, DuPage, Will, Kankakee, Winnebago, and Marion County
The Neighbor Project	Kane, Kendall, and Will County
The Resurrection Project	Cook DuPage, and Lake County
Will County Center for Community Concerns	Will, LaSalle, Gundy, and Kankakee County

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About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA is a self-supporting and mission-driven state agency dedicated to financing the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois. IHDA offers affordable mortgages and down payment assistance for homebuyers, provides financing for the development of affordable rental housing, and manages a variety of assistance programs to create communities where all Illinoisans can live, work, and thrive. Since it was established in 1967, IHDA has delivered more than \$29 billion in state, federal, and leveraged financing to make possible the purchase, development, or rehabilitation of 335,750 homes and apartments for low- and middle-income households. For more information on IHDA programs, visit www.ihda.org.

About the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago

FHLBank Chicago is a regional bank in the Federal Home Loan Bank System. FHLBanks are government-sponsored enterprises created by Congress to ensure access to low-cost funding for their member financial institutions, with a focus on providing solutions that support the housing and community development needs of members' customers. FHLBank Chicago is a self-capitalizing cooperative, owned by its Illinois and Wisconsin members, including commercial banks, credit unions, insurance companies, savings institutions and community development financial institutions. To learn more about FHLBank Chicago, please visit fhlbc.com.