



Make Housing Fair



RESOURCE BOOK

Hosted By:

- Prairie State Legal Services Fair Housing Project
- Most Blessed Trinity and the Father Gary Graf Center
- The Fuller Center for Housing, Hero Project Lake County

Participating Organizations:

- Affordable Housing Corporation of Lake County
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago
- COOL (Christian Outreach of Lutherans)
- ComEd
- Community Action Partnership of Lake County
- Community Youth Network
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service of McHenry County, Inc.
- Countryside Association
- Family Service: Prevention, Education, and Counseling, NFP
- The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC)
- Habitat for Humanity Lake County, IL
- Illinois Department of Human Rights
- Illinois Housing Development Authority
- Independence Center
- Lake County Center for Independent Living
- Lake County Community Development
- Lake County Housing Authority
- Lake County Township Officials of Illinois
- Love In the Name of Christ
- Maristella
- Nicasa
- Office of Congressman Brad Schneider
- PACE
- PADS Lake County
- PSLS Legal Help for Homeowners Project
- Regional Real Estate
- Safe Families for Children
- YouthBuild Lake County
- Youth Conservation Corps

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On Tuesday, April 29th, Prairie State Legal Services Fair Housing Project, Most Blessed Trinity, and the Fuller Center for Housing Hero Project Lake County hosted the Make Housing Fair in celebration of Fair Housing Month. The goals of the Fair were to educate the community and service providers about illegal housing discrimination; to foster collaboration between legal aid, social service, and government agencies; and to disseminate information to the community about the ways in which these organizations can provide help.

The Make Housing Fair brought together over 30 legal aid, social service, and government agencies that are dedicated to serving the people of Lake County. The Make Housing Fair reached numerous community members.

In the spirit of fostering partnerships and communication, Prairie State Legal Services has created this Resource Book. Included in the Resource Book are brief descriptions of each represented organization at the Make Housing Fair, as well as contact information for each organization.

If you have any questions about this book, any of the organizations listed within, or about fair housing law, please contact Kara Grubb, Fair Housing Testing and Outreach Coordinator for Prairie State Legal Services, kgrubb@pslegal.org, 224-321-5607.



Descriptions and Contact Information

Affordable Housing Corporation of Lake County

AHC offers homeownership, foreclosure prevention and property rehabilitation programs for low-income households in Lake County.

847-263-7478

lolvera@ahclc.org

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

Catholic Charities Lake County Services is part of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, a multipurpose social service agency serving Cook and Lake Counties. Our agency mission is to provide compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. Catholic Charities was founded in 1917 and services began in Lake County in 1945. For over 68 years, Catholic Charities Lake County Services has provided a comprehensive range of social services in four important areas: basic human needs, families and individuals, the needs of children, and senior services. Our agency serves each person regardless of religious, racial, ethnic, or socio-economic background.

847-782-4000

COOL (Christian Outreach of Lutherans)

COOL operates two food pantry locations in Lake County and a homeless program that provides transitional housing for 8 homeless families with children.

The mission of COOL is to provide comprehensive assistance to families in need by reducing hunger and homelessness while encouraging personal growth and self-sufficiency.

www.coolministries.org

Commonwealth Edison Company

ComEd runs the CARE financial assistance programs and provides energy efficiency tips to help reduce electric bills.

ComEducation@ComEd.com



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Community Action Partnership of Lake County

For 50 years, Community Action Partnership of Lake County, a nonprofit organization, has administered the Lake County Head Start (Early Childhood Development Program), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Youth and Family Services (Youth Prevention Services, Emergency Assistance and Food Pantry), Weatherization, Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Affordable Housing programs. Our Mission is to reduce the causes and effects of poverty, promote self-sufficiency of individuals and families with low-incomes and improve the standard of living in Lake County.

This year is special because Community Action Partnership of Lake County celebrates 50 Years of Service in Lake County and Community Action Agencies are commemorating the War on Poverty and the birth of Community Action. Visit www.caplakecounty.org for upcoming events.

www.caplakecounty.org

847-249-4330

lisa.hayes@caplakecounty.org

Community Youth Network

Community Youth Network (CYN) is a community based counseling center that provides counseling and psychotherapy to children, adolescents, and adults. CYN offers individual, marital, family and group counseling on both general and specialized issues; takes all major insurance, and has a sliding fee scale. Some programs are free to participants. Finally, CYN offers community and professional education on a variety of topics. Visit us at www.cyngrayslake.org for a complete list of services.

cyngrayslake.org

847-548-6000

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of McHenry County, Inc.

CCCS of McHenry County serves residents of both McHenry and Lake Counties. CCCS is a HUD-approved not-for-profit organization that provides housing counseling including pre-purchase counseling, mortgage foreclosure prevention counseling, reverse mortgage counseling, and pre-rental counseling. CCCS is an NFCC affiliated agency that provides debt management and financial counseling provided by national certified financial professionals. CCCS is a US Trustee approved agency to provide pre-filing bankruptcy counseling and pre-discharge education.

illinoiscccs.org

815-338-5757

ebeckstrom@illinoiscccs.org



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Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) is a local non-profit that provides affordable housing for low and moderate income households. The housing includes ownership and rental opportunities. CPAH works in Highland Park, Lake Forest and Evanston. Typically, CPAH acquires a blighted or foreclosed property, gives it a green rehab, and makes it available at an affordable price to a household that qualifies as low income. By way of example, to qualify, a household of four would have to earn less than \$57,900, including all sources of income. CPAH also has an inventory of town homes that typically have a higher income limit, up to \$86,880 for a household of 4.

CPAH residents are waiters, school and hospital staff, grocery store workers, teachers' aides, seniors, disabled, single parents, etc.

CPAH hosts Service Days, where local businesses, banks, and individuals pitch in to help CPAH rehab a home. This saves CPAH thousands of dollars in project costs, and helps stretch scarce resources.

If you are interested in learning more about CPAH and affordable housing, please contact akaufman@cpahousing.org, or 847-681-8746.

847-681-8746

akaufman@cpahousing.org

Countryside Association

Non-profit, human services serving over 700 adult and children with developmental disabilities and their families in Lake, Cook, Dupage and Kane counties. We provide work and training programs, service coordination through the home-based, community job employment and respite care.

jkuhstoss@countrysideassn.org

Family Service: Prevention, Education, & Counseling, NFP

Founded in 1930, Family Service provides senior and caregiver services to residents across 62 communities in Lake and Northern Cook Counties. Also available in Highland Park/Highwood area is counseling for all ages for Latino and non-Latino clients. Family Service also provides educational support and services for clients in our service area.

www.famservice.org



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The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC)

The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) is a first-of-its-kind partnership between the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense (DoD), integrating all medical care into a fully-integrated federal health care facility with a single combined VA and Navy mission. The mission of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Homeless Programs is to end the cycle of homelessness amongst Veterans through supportive permanent housing, transitional housing, outreach, community partnerships and case management services. The FHCC Homeless Programs offer a range of programs and services designed to help homeless Veterans live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible including outreach, clinical assessment, referral to medical treatment, transitional housing, and supported permanent housing.

224-610-8752; 224-6100-5884

jeff.willgale@va.gov

Habitat for Humanity of Lake County

Habitat for Humanity provides home ownership to low-income families by building and rehabbing homes. Buyers apply through Habitat and purchase their homes through a no-interest mortgage with us. Payments are typically between \$500 and \$700 a month for principal, taxes and insurance.

Buyers complete 25 classes with Habitat for Humanity focusing on financial literacy, budgeting, banking, will and estate planning, home maintenance and yard care. In addition, buyers complete monthly 1:1 Budgeting with Habitat. Additional support is provided for the life of the mortgage in life skills, job skills and other areas of growth.

The Habitat ReStore in Gurnee is a 24,000 square foot retail-warehouse which sells new and used building materials, appliances and furniture to the public. Hours are Tuesday-Friday 9-6 and Saturday 9-5.

Community volunteers support our work. We are a host site for many organizations whose volunteers learn job skills while supporting our mission.

Since 1989 Habitat for Humanity has served almost 200 families in Lake County.

www.habitatlc.org

847-623-1020

info@habitatlc.org

Illinois Department of Human Rights

The Illinois Department of Human Rights takes and investigates charges of discrimination involving real estate transactions (rentals, sales, and other transactions) involving residential and commercial real property.

The Department also conducts fair housing education and outreach activities for home seekers, landlords, property owners, advertisers, and community organizations.

www.illinois.gov/dhr

Fair Housing Complaints: 312-814-6229; Education and Outreach: 312-814-6278

IDHR.FairHousing@illinois.gov



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Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA provides various down payment assistance programs for homebuyers.

312-898-3317

Independence Center

The Independence Center provides a holistic approach to behavioral health services & recovery.

847-360-1020

Lake County Center for Independent Living

Lake County Center for Independent Living (LCCIL) is a disability rights and service organization that promotes a fully accessible society. We are currently partnering on a proposed project in the village of Mundelein.

Kelli@lccil.org

Lake County Community Development

Lake County Community Development provides grant funding and technical assistance for agencies working to provide fair and affordable housing.

CommunityDevelopment@lakecountyil.gov



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Lake County Housing Authority

Lake County Housing Authority provides rent opportunities and assistance for over 3,500 individuals and families residing in Lake County, Illinois. Established in 1946, LCHA is the fourth largest Housing Authority in Illinois and the largest of the three housing authorities servicing the county. It is currently supporting the housing of over 11,000 individuals and is a non-smoking agency. Individuals/families in the Low Rent Public Housing and Section 8 programs pay at least 30% of their household income for rent. The difference is subsidized by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Low Rent Public Housing Program owns and operates 7 buildings totaling 334 units of housing developed for seniors (aged 55 & older). It also maintains a 125-unit town home development and 163 single-family homes scattered throughout Lake County.

Housing Choice Voucher Program provides rent assistance in privately owned rental units for low income individuals and families. Federal funding allows LCHA to assist 2,803 individuals and families with Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. These vouchers assist 6,907 individuals.

LCHA Supportive Programs:

- Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- Family Unification Program
- Summer Food Program
- Assist S8 Landlords with Property Tax Savings Program
- Illinois Hardest Hit
- Housing Counseling
- 1st Time Homebuyer Counseling
- Mortgage Default Counseling
- Foreclosure Intervention
- Home Equity Conversion Mortgages

lakecountyha.org

847-223-1170

Lake County Township Officials of Illinois

Many of the Townships in Lake County provide various services to residents.

847-816-6800

koconnor@libertyvilletownship.us

Love In the Name of Christ

Our mission is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. Our Clearing House provides a centralized point of information to help those with verified need get plugged into local resources or our partner church's ministries.

loveinclakecounty.org

847-731-0526



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FAIR HOUSING PROJECT

Maristella

Maristella is a non-profit agency dedicated to prevent homelessness in Lake County, Illinois. We provide assistance to those who are homeless and those who are at risk of becoming homeless. We give a hotel voucher in cooperation with PADS Lake County and we give one month rent to prevent evictions.

847-367-5360

Nicasa

Nicasa is a non-profit behavioral health and substance abuse treatment and prevention agency. Nicasa developed some of the state's first Latino services, DUI programs, community awareness and public education campaigns and prevention programming. In 2010, Nicasa was able to expand the services to include families that do not have a substance abuse program with Family Advocacy Services. Nicasa continues to develop and provide innovative services to meet the needs of the men, women, youth and families in the community.

<http://www.nicasa.org/>

Office of Congressman Brad Schneider

If you can't get an answer from a federal agency in a timely fashion, or if you feel you have been treated unfairly, our office may be able to help resolve a problem or get you the information you need. While we cannot guarantee you a favorable outcome, we will do our best to help you receive a fair and timely response to your problem.

Residents of the 10th Congressional District of Illinois can contact our office for assistance in dealing with Federal agencies.

847-793-0625

PACE Suburban Bus

PACE provides public transportation.

www.pacebus.com



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PADS Emergency Shelter

For more than 35 years, PADS has faithfully been providing immediate, critical services to the neediest among us – individuals and families that are experiencing homelessness in Lake County. Like a hospital emergency room, PADS is the first point of contact and the ONLY emergency shelter for the homeless in Lake County. In fact, PADS is often the only hope for someone facing a long night in the harrowing cold or blistering heat.

PADS provides assistance to individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout all of Lake County. PADS is a non-restrictive emergency shelter system and helps all people that come to us in need regardless of race, gender, age, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. PADS provides critical services that no other social or human services agency in Lake County offers. PADS is the only program in Lake County that provides emergency shelter in summer, enables families to stay together, takes in single fathers with children, and provides housing for chronically homeless individuals with severe mental illnesses and/or substance abuse issues.

PADS' vision is to provide a path to stable housing and self-sufficiency for everyone who experiences homelessness in Lake County. Our greatest hope is to help end homelessness and ensure happy, healthy, and safe lives for generations to come.

www.padslakecounty.org

Prairie State Legal Services

Prairie State Legal Services offers free legal services for low income persons and those over 60 who have serious civil legal problems and need legal help to solve them.

PSLS's mission is "to provide or coordinate the delivery of high quality legal services to low-income individuals, families and groups."

Throughout its history, Prairie State has focused on providing legal services to the most vulnerable groups in our society, including the poor, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

pslegal.org

PSLS Fair Housing Project

The Prairie State Legal Services Fair Housing Project fights against illegal housing discrimination in Lake, McHenry, Winnebago, and Boone counties. Fair Housing Project attorneys can investigate claims of housing discrimination; advise clients; and help clients enforce their rights if a landlord, seller, or other housing provider has treated them unfairly because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial status, military status, or order of protection status.

The Fair Housing Project also provide free educational presentations to groups interested in learning the basics of fair housing law; the types of discrimination and how to recognize each type; and what remedies are available to someone who is a victim of discrimination.

pslegal.org

855-FHP-LAKE (855-347-5253)



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PSLS Legal Help for Homeowners Project

The Legal Help for Homeowners Project (LHHP) is a project of Prairie State Legal Services funded by the Illinois Attorney General's Office. LHHP is dedicated to helping homeowners facing foreclosure save their property, as well as educating homeowners and tenants facing foreclosure about the court process and loss mitigation options.

Pslegal.org

888-966-7757

Regional Real Estate

We are a property management organization specializing in housing for low to moderate income clients.

847-235-7100

Safe Families for Children

Safe Families provides a secure, temporary home for children whose parents are in a crisis situation. Our services are available to children ages 0-18 years, including parenting teens. Placing parents maintain full custody and are encouraged to participate in decisions regarding their children's care. Safe Families has a commitment to reunite the family as soon as possible, and we maintain a close working relationship with the referring organization. Our volunteer families are extensively screened, including background checks and fingerprints. Safe Families also provides other services such as Family Friends, which are volunteer mentors who work with parents to support them in making necessary changes in their lives, and Support For Existing Situations, in which a relative or friend of the parent who is already caring for the child is welcomed into Safe Families' volunteer network and offered home support, community groups, and access to resources.

www.safe-families.org

773-653-2200

The Father Gary Graf Center

The Fr. Gary Graf Center offers the following assistance and classes:

- Assistance to eligible legal permanent residents to complete the application for citizenship and tutoring for the citizenship interview and test.
- English as a Second Language, GED, Citizenship Test Preparation and Spanish Literacy classes.
- Free Initial Legal Consultations by local attorneys in the areas of: Family Law, Personal Injury, Traffic Law, DUIs, and Criminal Defense.
- In partnership with HACES, families are connected to food stamps, medical benefits and All Kids insurance, ensuring that all families in our community have access to the health resources they need.
- In partnership with the Center for Economic Progress, free income tax preparation for low-income families during tax season.

Additional social services referrals are available as needed.

847-735-0858

510 10th Street, Waukegan, IL, 60085



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The Fuller Center for Housing Hero Project Lake County

We provide affordable housing, wellness programs (community gardens, nutrition) and working family (job training and placement).

info@fullercenterlakecounty.org

YouthBuild Lake County

YouthBuild Lake County is a non-profit organization that helps low-income adults complete their education, learn the necessary skills to become employed, and build a hopeful future for themselves and their families. YBLC builds affordable green homes for families in the community.

Youthbuildlakecounty.org

847-473-3483

Youth Conservation Corps

The mission of Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is to guide and mentor young adults using education, job skills training, and community service to help develop productive citizens.

YCC-YouthBuild is a nationally recognized, ten-month development program that bonds youth and communities together through work that addresses issues facing local communities, such as housing, education, employment, youth development and leadership development.

Young people from the ages of 17-24 that need a GED, internship, credentials and life skills should apply. Members that complete the program will earn a scholarship and incentives while enhancing their opportunities.

Our next class will be starting later this summer. Interested youth can visit our offices (1020 W. Greenwood Ave., Waukegan) Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:30 to apply.

www.youthconservationcorps.org

847-623-0900