

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

metropolitan chicago

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YWCA METROPOLITAN CHICAGO AWARDED \$11.9 MILLION CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY (CHA) CONTRACT TO ADMINISTER FAMILY WORKS SERVICES TO CHA RESIDENTS IN BRONZEVILLE AND CHICAGO'S NORTH SIDE

Contract Will Allow YWCA to Offer Its Comprehensive Support Services to CHA Residents

November 22, 2019

On Tuesday, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Board of Commissioners approved a contract for YWCA Metropolitan Chicago to serve as the FamilyWorks Agency for Service Area 1 which includes Dearborn Homes in Bronzeville and Cabrini Green Rowhouses on the near northside. In addition, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago will provide FamilyWorks services to CHA residents living in scattered site housing across the northside, including Uptown, Edgewater and Rogers Park.

"We are thrilled that CHA entrusted us with this new opportunity," stated Dorri McWhorter, CEO of YWCA Metropolitan Chicago. *"We know the residents of CHA will benefit greatly from the comprehensive support services we will be able to provide to them not only as FamilyWorks participants, but also as YWCA clients with full access to a range of YWCA programs and services."*

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is the oldest and largest women's service organization in the Region, with a mission to eliminate racism and empower women. With a trauma-informed approach, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a leading service provider in the areas of sexual violence support services, early childhood and child care provider services, family support services, youth STEM programming, and economic empowerment services.

"We are prepared to bring the full heft of YWCA programming to our FamilyWorks clients and know that doing so will help CHA residents work through barriers to empowerment and allow them to thrive," added Loren Simmons, YWCA's Chief Empowerment Officer, who will oversee the delivery of the FamilyWorks program.

FamilyWorks, CHA's Family Centered Coaching program, is the cornerstone of CHA's services for family public housing and Housing Choice Voucher participants. The YWCA will be administering the FamilyWorks program, providing comprehensive support



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including direct clinical services, employment assessment and preparation, digital literacy and financial education services, as well as resources and referrals for residents of CHA who reside in the assigned Service Area. Mary Howard, CHA's Chief Resident Services Officer echoed YWCA's enthusiasm "*We are excited to have YWCA join our group of experienced service providers, and share in our mission to support families. We look forward to working with them and the complement of services that they will offer to CHA residents.*"

About Chicago Housing Authority

The Chicago Housing Authority provides homes to more than 63,000 households while supporting healthy communities in neighborhoods throughout the city. Designated a Moving to Work agency by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, CHA has used that flexibility to create innovative partnerships that expand choices and opportunities for the low income families and individuals it serves. At the start of 2018, 63 percent of work-able CHA residents were working and earning a yearly average of almost \$22,000.

About YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Founded in 1876, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a social enterprise committed to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. As a leading association among a national network of more than 200 YWCAs, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago impacts tens of thousands of women and families annually through comprehensive human services provided across the region. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a leading service provider in the areas of sexual violence support services, early childhood and child care provider services, family support services, youth STEM programming, and economic empowerment services. Located in the third-largest American city with the third-highest percentage of women in the U.S., YWCA Metropolitan Chicago serves as a national incubator for innovative programming, outreach and engagement strategies. Contributing to our diverse and balanced economy, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is working at the individual and systems levels to create an inclusive marketplace where everyone thrives. The organization is also an active member of many national, state, county and city-level coalitions, representing the interests of and advocating for policies that positively affect women and families. Learn more at www.ywcachicago.org or follow @ywcachicago.



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