



# Creating Sustainable Communities Together

The West Cook County Housing Collaborative—a joint effort between the Municipalities of Bellwood, Berwyn, Forest Park, Maywood, and Oak Park—was created with the purpose of facilitating the creation of livable, sustainable communities from a regional perspective.

## **ADDRESSING NEEDS**

WCCHC is focused on creating efficiencies and implementing a full array of strategies that better connect affordable housing and transportation.

Formed in 2009 to address the extremely high foreclosure rates affecting these five suburban communities, WCCHC works with its community partners to finance, renovate and make available quality, affordable housing throughout the five municipalities.

## **STRONG FOUNDATION**

WCCHC is funded by The Chicago Community Trust and Grand Victoria Foundation, with technical assistance provided by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Metropolitan Planning Council, and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Since it was formed, the Collaborative has produced nearly 30 units of quality affordable housing in West Cook County, targeting families at or below 80% of the area median income.

- ✓ *Quality housing with long-term affordability*
- ✓ *Livable, sustainable communities*
- ✓ *Pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods*
- ✓ *Developing near transit lines*
- ✓ *Rehabbing vacant and foreclosed properties*

## SUCCESSES

In Fall 2009, WCCHC was awarded a \$3.2 million Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) award from Cook County, Illinois. With this award, the Collaborative acquired and renovated a 26-unit foreclosed building in Maywood and transferred ownership and management to a local non-profit; the remaining funds were used to acquire and rehab three single-family homes in Bellwood.

WCCHC strongly believes that both rental and for-sale options can be improved and expanded in a manner that ensures long-term affordability within mixed-income, mixed use, and pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.

## LOOKING FORWARD

In December 2011, the Collaborative received a nearly \$3 million award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as part of the Sustainable Communities Program, and just under \$4.3 million from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), both to increase affordable housing for families in West Suburban Cook County.

These funds will allow nearly 100 foreclosed or vacant homes—near transit stops—to be acquired, rehabbed, and resold over the next 4 years. The funds will also seed a transit-oriented development fund that will support future development efforts near transit.



## CONTACT

IFF, America's leading community development financial institution, serves as the Coordinator for the West Cook County Housing Collaborative. Since WCCHC's inception, IFF has worked closely with the Collaborative to access public resources to support development in the five communities.

Questions about WCCHC can be directed to:

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