



## Backgrounder

As an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat for Humanity Chicago believes that everyone deserves a decent place to live. We are committed towards providing all Chicagoans a safe, stable, and affordable home in a healthy, thriving, attractive neighborhood.

Chicago, like most metropolitan cities across the U.S., is struggling to provide its residents safe and affordable housing. One in five Chicagoans pay more than 50% of their income to housing<sup>1</sup>. At minimum wage, someone in the city would have to work approximately 80 hours a week to afford a market-rate, two-bedroom apartment<sup>2</sup>.

In response to this, we partner with committed residents and trusted organizations in order to help families and communities achieve strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable housing, beautification and development projects.

We believe neighborhood environments in a city are drivers of health, safety, and opportunity, so with that in mind, Habitat Chicago takes a neighborhood-focused approach in our work in order to maximize our impact for the local residents and for Chicago as a whole. Our current neighborhoods are West Pullman and Greater Grand Crossing.

## Programs and Services:

**Affordable Homeownership Program** – Habitat's most well known program where we build homes for our selected homebuyers. After homeowner education classes and 250 volunteer hours on the construction site building their home, they will be able to purchase a Habitat home with an affordable mortgage.

**Homebuyer University** – A free public class series with the explicit goal of giving more Chicagoans access to the benefits of homeownership.

**Neighborhood Grants Initiative** – An initiative that awards direct funding to resident-led projects in our focus neighborhoods, West Pullman and Greater Grand Crossing.

**Home Care Workshop Series** – A series of monthly workshops covering topics and information related to home maintenance, repair, and renovation projects to increase the health, comfort, and longevity of a home.

Visit [habitchicago.org](https://habitchicago.org) for more information

<sup>1</sup> <http://blogs.luc.edu/chrc/2018/05/29/addressing-substandard-housing/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://chicago.curbed.com/2019/6/18/18683776/chicago-illinois-affordable-housing-rent-burden>