

JUST HOUSING INITIATIVE

We are calling for a countywide amendment that will ensure that people with records have equal access to stable housing opportunities.

The Just Housing Amendment will:

-  Require housing providers to consider an application before inquiring about, considering, or requiring disclosure of a potential tenant's criminal history
-  Ban discrimination in real estate transactions based on an arrest record, citation, juvenile record, sealed or expunged record, or participation in a deferral or judgment program.
-  Keep housing providers from automatically rejecting an applicant based on a conviction. They will need to consider factors such as evidence of rehabilitation, the length of time that has passed since the conviction, and the nature and severity of the crime.

This isn't a new idea

Other jurisdictions in Illinois already offer protections for people with records. In municipalities like Urbana, IL, people with records are considered a protected class in housing-related transactions, and the use of criminal histories in housing decisions is expressly prohibited.

This is a common sense, basic step

We all want to live in a fair, safe community. This will help reduce recidivism and protect children and families from the consequences of housing instability.

Want to know more? We'd love to hear from you.

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Fast Facts

1 in 3 Americans has an arrest record



More than 62% of people in prison in Illinois are parents



Housing policies that ban people with records harm people of color and people with disabilities the most



People re-entering their communities with access to stable housing are 7xs less likely to end up back in prison than those facing homelessness



Home is the cornerstone from which people build better lives for themselves and their families. People with records, like everyone else, deserve a place to call home.

JUST HOUSING INITIATIVE SUPPORTERS



Tell your Commissioner that you support the Just Housing Amendment!

Access Living
ACLU of Illinois
Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance
All Chicago
Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County
Apna Ghar
Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Chicago
Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park Beds Plus
Bethel New Life
Block Together
Breakthrough Urban Ministries
Business and Professional People for the Public Interest
Cabrini Green Legal Aid
CAIR-Chicago
Catholic Charities
CEDA
Charles P. Fischbach, Former Commissioner, City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations
Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression
Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Community Bond Fund
Chicago Council of Lawyers
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Chicago Urban League
Claretian Associates
Coalition for Equitable Community Development
Community Renewal Society
Connections for the Homeless
Connections of Illinois
Communities United
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Deborah's Place
Evanston Northshore NAACP
EZRA Multi-Service Center
Facing Forward to End Homelessness
Faith Community Homes
Fellowship Housing

First Congregational UCC, Evanston
First Unitarian Criminal Justice Task Force
Ford Heights Community Service Organization
Greater West Town Training Partnership
Growing Home Inc.
Health and Medicine Policy Research Group
Heartland Alliance for Human Rights and Human Needs
HOPE Fair Housing Center
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Choice Partners
Housing Forward
Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ
Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy at Roosevelt University
Impact Behavioral Health Partners
Independent Voters of Illinois- Independent Precinct Organization
Inspiration Corporation
Interfaith Coalition Against Racism
James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy
Jane Adams Senior Caucus
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
John Howard Association of Illinois
John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Clinic
Journeys: The Road Home
Justice and Witness Ministry, of the Chicago Metropolitan Association, United Church of Christ
Kenwood Oakland Community Organization
Latino Policy Forum
Latin United Community Housing Association (LUCHA)
Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing
Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services
Lincoln Park Community Services
Mental Health America of Illinois
Mental Health Summit
Metropolitan Planning Council
Metropolitan Tenants Organization
Mothers Against Senseless Killings
Northside Housing and Supportive Services
NAMI Chicago
National Fair Housing Alliance

National Housing Law Project
Nehemiah Trinity Rising
North/Northwest Suburban Task Force on Supportive Housing for Individuals with Mental Illness
Northwest Compass
Northwest Side Housing Center
Northwestern Rethink Relink Chicago!
Oak Park Regional Housing Center
ONE Northside
Open Communities
People for Community Recovery
Project Irene
Respond Now
Restaurant Opportunities Center
Restore Justice
Safer Foundation
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SEIU Healthcare Illinois
South Suburban Housing Center
South Suburban PADS
Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP)
Southwest Organizing Project
Streetwise
Strengthening Chicago's Youth
Supportive Housing Providers Association of Illinois
TASC, Inc.
The Center of Concern
The Next Movement
Together We Cope
Thresholds
Trilogy
Uptown People's Law Center
United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations
Westside Health Authority
Woodstock Institute
Working Family Solidarity