

GARFIELD PARK Community Council

300 N. Central Park Ave.
Chicago IL 60624
773-638-1766 • www.gpcommunitycouncil.org

Position Description

Title: Housing Organizer
Date Prepared: June 26, 2013
Hours: 32 hours per week

Background:

The mission of the Garfield Park Community Council is to strengthen, promote and encourage opportunities that support an engaged, equitable, and vital Garfield Park neighborhood. Spun off by the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance in 2012, the Council is building on its work of the past seven years to revitalize and bring new opportunities to Garfield Park.

In 2010, the Council created and continues to manage the Garfield Park Housing Center, which provides free counseling and referrals to both local renters and landlords. Between 2009 and 2011, over 20% of all Garfield Park occupied rental properties were impacted by foreclosure. In July, the Council is looking to hire an organizer to help with its community organizing efforts associated with the City's Micro-Market Recovery Program (MMRP).

MMRP is an initiative of the City of Chicago to restart the residential housing market in communities affected by high rates of foreclosure. The Council is leading the MMRP efforts in East Garfield Park and will target specific blocks for assistance. We plan to integrate the MMRP process into the Council's existing public safety campaign, using it as a tool to organize and train new resident advocates and leaders.

Responsibilities:

- Reach out to households to encourage participation in the existing Council monthly Housing Committee
- Engage residents, property managers/owners, police and local institutions to improve housing stabilization on targeted blocks
- Recruit and train block leaders who will play key roles in MMRP
- Ensure residents are reporting abandoned residential buildings and addressing troubled housing
- Contact every recipient of foreclosure filing in the target area. Explore different services and products available to both building owners/owner occupied buildings and refer owner to appropriate member of the MMRP resources team.

The organizer's efforts will both build a base to advocate for improved institutional housing practices, while the organizing will reach far beyond this program, resulting in a core body of trained resident activists ready to lead long-term community renewal efforts.

MMRP Partners: Community Investment Corporation (CIC), Community Male Empowerment Project (help improve occupancy rates in target area), Neighborhood Housing Services, Mercy Portfolio Services, Metropolitan Tenants Organization.

Qualifications:

Candidate should have experience and demonstrated success in community organizing and base building; excellent interpersonal skills; and strong oral and written communication skills; and knowledge of urban housing issues. The person in this position must be enthusiastic about working on this project, passionate about the position's responsibilities and the community. Ideal candidate takes initiative and has strong leadership skills.

Submit resume, writing sample and references by mail or e-mail to:

GPCC, 300 N Central Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60624. Attention Mike Tomas or miket@gpccouncil.org

Garfield Park Community Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer