



ICE

Institute for Community Empowerment

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Mission and Vision

For 27 years, the Institute for Community Empowerment (ICE) has taught Chicago residents the skills of community organizing to ensure that they can participate fully in addressing the issues that matter most in their communities and their lives. ICE believes that all residents in a democracy have the capability and the right to **I**nitiate change, **C**ombat injustice, and **E**mpower themselves and their communities.

Current Projects

Coalition To Save Our Mental Health Centers

With ICE's assistance, the Coalition has worked since 2004 to develop a new model for delivering mental health services tailored to each Chicago community's needs for its most poor and vulnerable residents.

Results

- The Kedzie Center opened as the first new Expanded Mental Health Services Program clinic in October 2014—today it provides services free of charge to residents seeking care in the Albany Park, Irving Park, North Park, and Forest Glen communities.
- ICE and the Coalition are planning a community outreach and education campaign in the North Lawndale, East and West Garfield Park, and Near West Side communities for the creation of a second EMHSP clinic in 2016.



Success! North River residents with 3,498 signatures for mental health referendum



Success! Proud Bateman graduates with their Citizens Now program facilitator

Citizens Now

Citizens Now is a 12-week after-school program conceived and implemented by ICE to teach 5th and 6th graders at Chicago's Public Schools the skills of citizenship and the importance of participating and working with others in our democracy.

Results

- In May 2015, the first 13 students from Newton Bateman Elementary School in Irving Park graduated from the Citizens Now program.
- Pre/post-questionnaires showed positive improvements on questions testing students' knowledge about their community and government and self-reported communication with adults and peers.

"Ideally, in my dream, the Citizens Now program would be available for every student." - Assistant Principal Efrain Martinez, Newton Bateman Elementary School

Housing Bronzeville

With ICE's assistance, Bronzeville residents have worked during the past 11 years to convince Chicago's leaders to develop a pioneering program of affordable homeownership on their community's hundreds of city-owned vacant lots.

Results

- The group has assembled a development team that is poised to build a first phase of new affordable homes on six such lots in the Washington Park community.



Success! ICE Board Member, Valencia Hardy, with city official

For further information or partnership opportunities, contact Robert T. Gannett, Executive Director:
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