

Open Communities is a leading voice for housing, economic and social justice in north suburban Chicago, working to promote inclusive communities that are welcoming to all.

Inclusive and diverse communities are healthy, robust and right. Our communities are richer when those who give to the northern suburbs also live here.

Founded in 1972 by north suburban residents and congregations, we are a nonprofit, membership-based organization dedicated to fostering economically and culturally diverse communities. We educate, advocate and organize in the name of social justice, working collaboratively with current and prospective residents, local groups and municipalities.

We Offer:

Services

- Fair Housing Discrimination Investigation & Education
- Foreclosure Prevention Counseling
- Homesharing
- Landlord/Tenant Advice
- Immigrant Leadership Development

Advocacy & Organizing

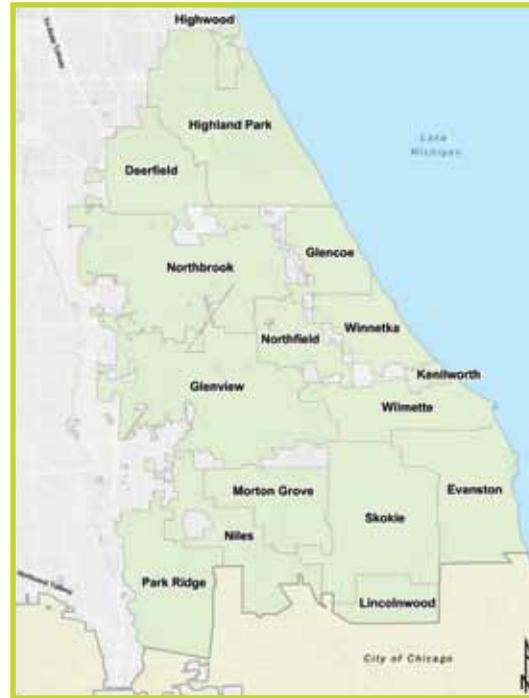
- Affordable Housing Advocacy
- Community Organizing.

All of our services are confidential and provided free of charge. Donations are welcome.

Non-Discrimination

Open Communities does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the U.S. Civil Rights Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Age Discrimination Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois constitutions. If you feel that you have been discriminated against, you have the right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department of Aging. Call **(800) 252-8966** (voice and TDD) or contact Open Communities at **(847) 501-5760**.

Our Communities



Publication Funding

Funds in part for this publication were provided through an award from AgeOptions through grants from the Illinois Department on Aging and Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under Title III of the Older Americans Act.



614 Lincoln Avenue
Winnetka, Illinois 60093-2308
847.501.5760
open-communities.org



Formerly known as the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs

Homesharing





What is Homesharing?

Homesharing facilitates compatible matches between prospective housemates in Chicago's northern suburbs. We match a homeowner (or someone renting a home) who has a spare bedroom with an individual willing to rent that room. Both parties benefit from affordability and mutual support.

Who are the home providers?

Homesharing "providers" are homeowners, condo owners, and sometimes renters who enjoy sharing their homes and who can benefit from additional rent or help. Homesharing is a creative way for single persons, families with children, people with disabilities, and retirees to remain in their communities, maintain their homes and supplement their incomes.

Who are the seekers?

Homesharing "seekers" or renters are individuals for whom renting a room meets a short-term or long-term need. They come to Homesharing because they enjoy people and want a safe, clean and affordable home. Most want to live near their job, school or public transportation.

Homesharing appeals to working men and women who hold positions in the community such as librarians, first-year teachers, church secretaries, medical receptionists, food service workers.

Who Benefits from Homesharing?

Homesharing benefits those who seek affordable housing.

Saving Money

Keeping up with mortgages, utility bills, and property taxes can be challenging. Renting one or more bedrooms gives a homeowner extra help to meet those costs. For renters, Homesharing often makes it possible to save for a future goal.

Well-being and Independence

Homeowners who are frail but in good health as well as some people with disabilities benefit from help with minor chores in order to remain independent. They often will charge a lower rent in exchange for this assistance.

Companionship

Homesharing partners share anything from friendly greetings to after-dinner conversation; some become friends and keep in touch after one or the other moves away.

Flexibility

Homesharing provides long-term or short-term (i.e., month-to-month) rentals.

Getting Started

What does Homesharing require?

Homesharing renters must have a monthly income of at least \$1,000 and good references.

Homesharing providers can be homeowners or renters. They must have a separate room or rooms to rent, with access to a kitchen and laundry, within the service area of Open Communities.

Homesharing makes each match with great care and attention to the needs and expectations of both the home provider and the home seeker.

Homesharing Coordinator Jackie Grossmann has been making matches since 1997 and brings over 30 years of social service experience to her work. She gets to know the homeowner personally, and often advises the homeowner how to prepare the room to make it rentable. The staff gets a sense of what might make a compatible match based on the personality and living habits of the homeowner.

The process begins with a call to **(847) 501-5732, ext 401** or e-mail the Homesharing Coordinator at **jackie@open-communities.org**.

For more details on the process, visit www.open-communities.org