



ARO Task Force Application

This fall, Chicago’s Department of Housing (DOH) is investigating what changes need to be made to the Affordable Requirements Ordinance, or ARO—a law that requires developers of some apartment and condo buildings and single-family developments to restrict a portion of their units for low-income Chicagoans and/or pay an “in-lieu” fee into Chicago’s Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund.

To help gather feedback and ideas on the ARO, DOH will be convening a Task Force and Focus Groups over the next four to six months. DOH will select participants for the Task Force and Focus Groups based on the questions on this application and the criteria printed at the end of this application. We ask that all who are interested in serving on the Task Force apply; it is open to all Chicagoans. Our goal is to get the widest, most representative and equitable range of participants possible.

If you’re interested, please send answers to the questions below to AROTASKFORCE@cityofchicago.org. You may simply write the answers directly in the body of the email.

1. What is your name?
2. If applying based on your lived experience, in what neighborhood do you live? If applying based on your professional experience, in what neighborhood(s) do you work? (You can list both.)
3. How would you describe your racial or ethnic background?
4. How would you describe your gender identity?
5. The ARO Focus Groups will take place on weekday evenings at neighborhood locations (interested parties will attend one). Task Force meetings will take place during weekday work hours at downtown locations (task force participants commit to multiple meetings).

Based on your availability, are you applying to be a participant in a Focus Group (a weekday evening in a neighborhood setting) or the Task Force (work hours downtown)?

Focus Group – please answer **Focus Group Questions** below

Task Force – please answer **Task Force Questions** below

Focus Group Questions

1. Why are you interested in participating in an ARO Focus Group?
2. Do you participate in any community, faith-based, advocacy, or other kinds of organizations? What has your involvement been with them?
3. Your commitment to the Focus Group would be to attend a one-time, two-hour meeting with other Focus Group members and DOH staff. The meeting would take place during a weekday evening at a neighborhood location. You will be listed publicly as a focus group participant, but no comments will be attributed to specific participants.

DOH commits that all Focus Group ideas will be shared publicly and will be weighed along with input from the Task Force, public comments, subject matter hearing(s), budget constraints, and the values of the Lightfoot Administration in shaping the final ordinance. DOH will provide the criteria by which ideas were chosen and will respond to all ideas that are not included in the final ordinance to explain why they were not concluded.

If you agree to these commitments, please send your answers to AROTASKFORCE@cityofchicago.org. You may simply write the answers directly in the body of the email.

Task Force Questions

1. Why are you interested in participating in the ARO Task Force?
2. Do you participate in any community, faith-based, advocacy, or other kinds of organizations? What has your involvement been with them?
3. Do you have any technical skills, expertise, or lived experience that will help you contribute to the Task Force? Note especially anything related to affordable housing and inclusionary zoning policy or housing development and finance.
4. Your time commitment to the Task Force would be to meet one or more times per month, during the day, at a downtown location, for four to six months. You may also be requested to participate in working group meetings. Can you make that time commitment?
5. Your commitment to the Task Force would be to engage with other Task Force members with a wide variety of perspectives in good faith, acknowledging your interests but remaining open to innovation and to thinking creatively.

DOH commits that it will publish a report including all ideas raised by the Task Force, and that it will weigh those ideas along with input from Focus Groups, public comments, subject matter hearing(s), budget constraints, and the values of the Lightfoot Administration in shaping the final ordinance. DOH will provide the criteria by which ideas were chosen and will respond to all ideas that are not included in the final ordinance to explain why they were not concluded.

If you agree to these commitments, please send your answers to AROTASKFORCE@cityofchicago.org. You may simply write the answers directly in the body of the email.

Criteria for selecting ARO task force members:

1. Racial and Geographic Diversity
 - a. Representation from Chicago's racial and geographic diversity, particularly those neighborhoods most impacted by the ARO
2. Experience, Skills, and Knowledge
 - a. Lived experience
 - i. Relationships and leadership within geographic, ethnic, religious, and advocacy communities
 - ii. Institutional or non-institutional
 - iii. Lived experience or background in fair housing protected categories, including disability, national origin, family status, gender identity, sexual orientation, military status or source of income.
 - iv. Particularly important to have representation from people who are most affected by inclusionary zoning and affordable housing policy
 - b. Development and housing finance
 - i. Affordable
 - ii. Market
 - c. Inclusionary zoning and affordable housing policy
 - i. Academics and researchers
 - ii. Advocates
3. Availability and Commitment
 - a. 4-6 month commitment
 - b. Monthly meetings downtown during the workday. For those who can't make that time/location, Focus Group(s) at a more convenient time and location.
 - c. Participate in working groups as needed
4. Engagement and Participation
 - a. Able to balance having a defined point of view and self-interest with openness to innovation and ability to think creatively
 - b. Willing to engage in good faith with a broad variety of other perspectives
 - c. Agree to parameters of the task force:
 - i. Short-term, advisory body
 - ii. All task force recommendations may be shared publicly, but not all recommendations may be incorporated in new ARO policy

The Department of Housing commits to:

1. Publish the criteria by which we will evaluate recommendations
2. Make public all task force recommendations and invite public comment
3. Hold focus groups for people with lived experience and/or who cannot attend downtown, daytime meetings
4. Consider task force recommendations, public comment, focus group content, subject matter hearing(s) and city/budget priorities in determining a proposed new ordinance

5. Provide explanations for any recommendations not taken