

C.H.O.I.C.E.S.

Choose

Housing

Options

In

Communities

Empowering

Self-Sufficiency



What Is C.H.O.I.C.E.S.?

Lake County Housing Authority (LCHA) recognized the trend of its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants to lease up in areas that are heavily concentrated with housing subsidy and poverty. LCHA worked to develop a program to encourage its HCV participants to move to communities that promote self-sufficiency and have deconcentrated areas of subsidized housing and poverty.

Why C.H.O.I.C.E.S.?

- The C.H.O.I.C.E.S. program will support your interest in moving to a better home, in a better neighborhood in Lake County.
- You'll be directed to communities and neighborhoods designated as "Opportunity Areas."
- Payment Standards are higher in Opportunity Areas. For the current payment standards and utility allowances, please go to the Housing Choice Voucher page on our website: www.lakecountyha.org.
- You may receive a 30-day extension on your Voucher, if you provide proof you are searching in Opportunity Areas.



What Are Opportunity Areas?

- Opportunity Areas have better school ratings, lower crime rates, more employment options, and better housing stability.
- They offer more diversity and lower poverty rates.
- Many HCV families currently live in Opportunity Areas and you can too.

Why Are They Opportunity Areas?

Each community in the region was analyzed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) in terms of the following criteria:

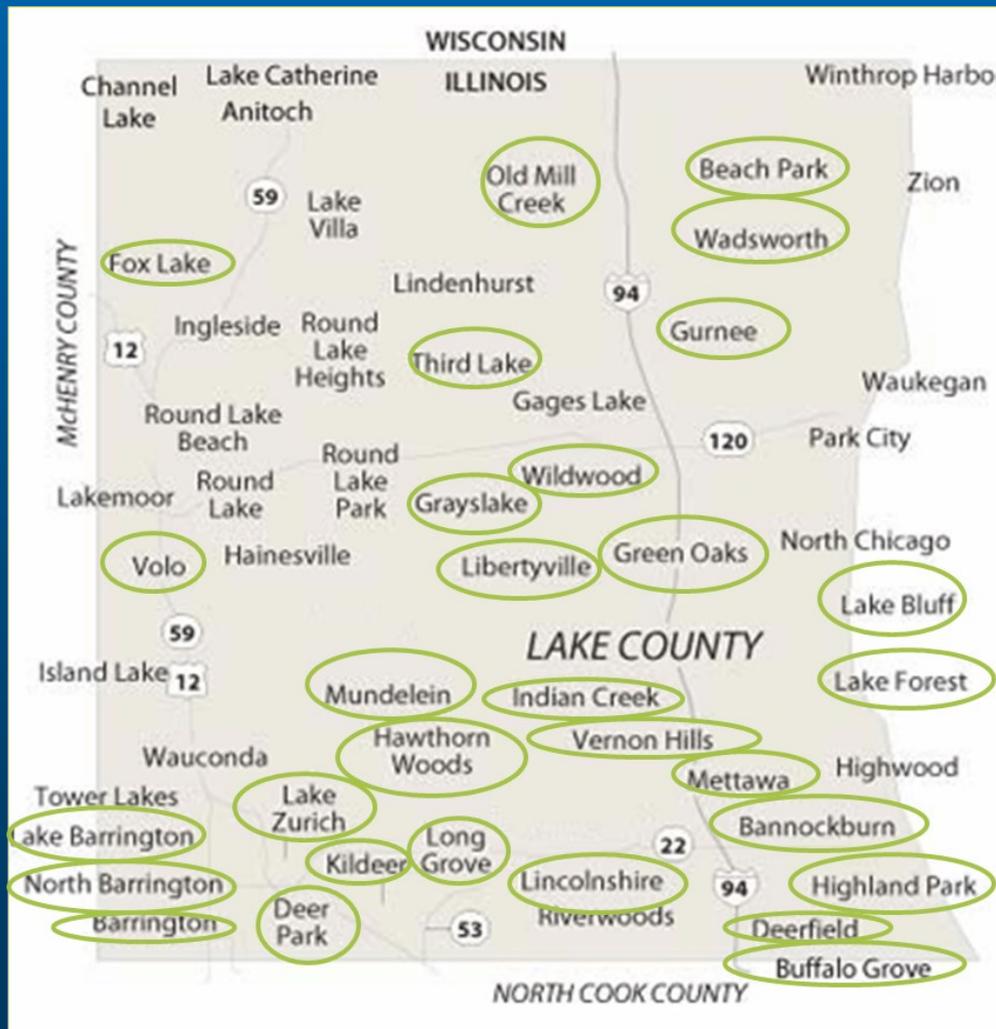
- School Performance
- Job Access
- Unemployment Rate
- Housing Stability
- Median Home Value
- Poverty Level
- Transit Accessibility
- Travel time to work



Opportunity Areas in Lake County

Bannockburn	Green Oaks	Lake Bluff	Mundelein
Barrington	Gurnee	Lake Forest	North Barrington
Buffalo Grove	Hawthorn Woods	Lake Zurich	Old Mill Creek
Deer Park	Highland Park	Libertyville	Third Lake
Deerfield	Indian Creek	Lincolnshire	Vernon Hills
Fox Lake	Kildeer	Long Grove	Volo
Grayslake	Lake Barrington	Mettawa	Wadsworth

Note: Not all census tracts in each community are considered Opportunity Areas.



Opportunity Areas within Lake County are circled.
Qualification is based on census track number.

Want Better Schools?

Learn more about the performance of the schools in the area you're considering moving to.

According to the Illinois State Board of Education:

- 57% of all Illinois 8th graders met or exceeded the **Reading** state standard in 2014.
- Opportunity Area schools in Barrington, Grayslake, and Vernon Hills had an average of 72% of students that met or exceeded the Reading standard.
- Traditional area schools in Lake County had an average of only 33% of students that met or exceeded the Reading standard.
- 60% of all Illinois 8th graders met or exceeded the **Math** state standard in 2014.
- Opportunity Area schools in Barrington, Grayslake, and Vernon Hills had an average of 73% of students that met or exceeded the Math standard.
- Traditional area schools in Lake County had an average of only 35% of students that met or exceeded the Math standard.

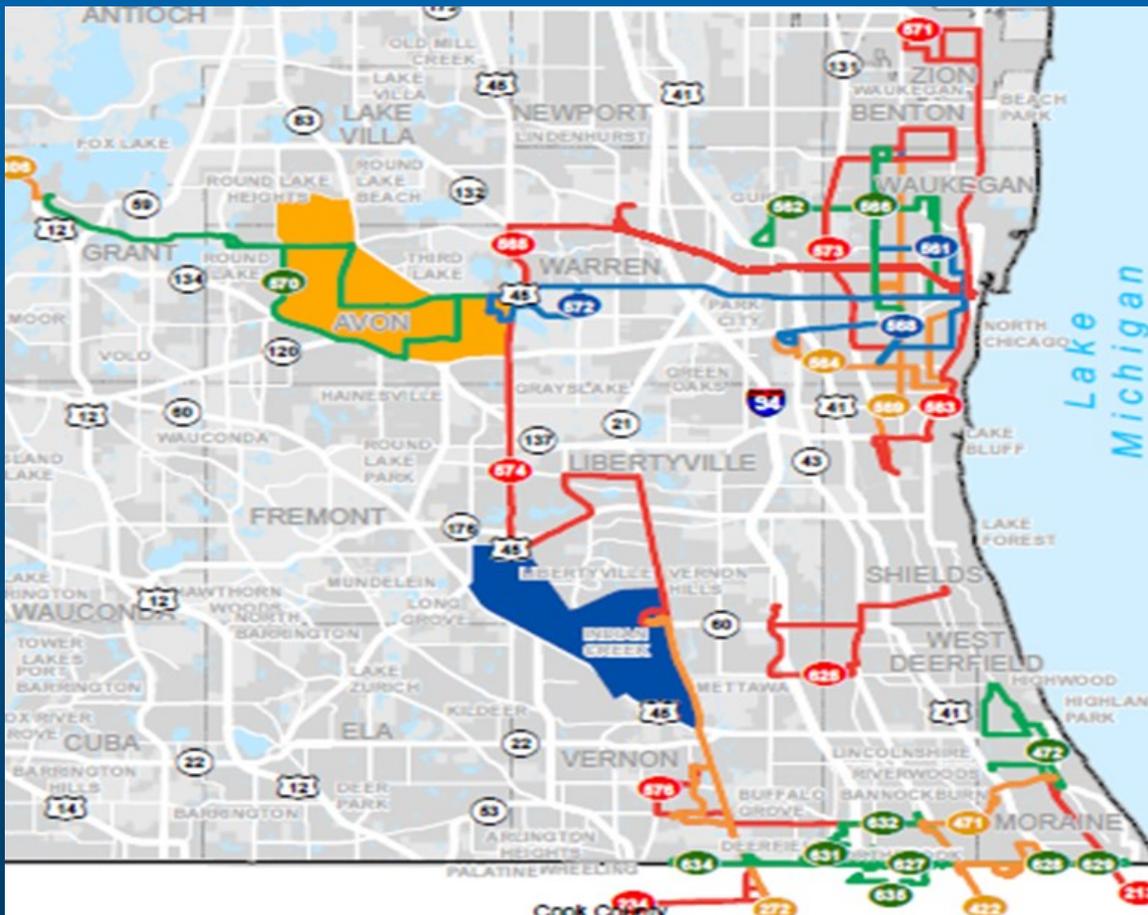
www.greatschools.org



Lake County Transportation Options

Pace provides both fixed routes and paratransit services in Lake County. All of the 21 fixed-route bus routes operate on weekdays. Twelve bus routes operate on Saturdays and two routes offer Sunday service.

www.pacebus.com



Areas with Many Employment Options

There are many Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Lake County, including:

- Abbott Laboratories, Abbot Park
- AbbVie, North Chicago
- Baxter International, Inc., Deerfield
- CF Industries Holdings, Inc., Deerfield
- CDW Corporation, Vernon Hills
- Discover Financial Services, Riverwoods
- Mondelez International, Deerfield
- Tenneco, Inc., Lake Forest
- United Stationers, Inc., Deerfield
- Walgreen Company, Deerfield
- W.W. Grainger, Inc., Lake Forest



Making Your Move Easy

You and your family should discuss your housing needs (“must haves” and “wish list”) before you start your search.

- You’ll get 90 days search time so you have time to learn about new areas.
- If you can show you have been searching in Opportunity Areas, your voucher may be extended an additional 30 days. Keep track of your search.
- Check the available units for rents in Opportunity Areas of Lake County.
- Make appointments to look at rental units you’re interested in.
- **Find a new home!**

Good Search Tips

The following are good places to find units for rent:

- Social Serve (www.socialserve.com)
- Apartments.com
- LCHA (www.lakecountyha.org)
- Newspaper websites or newspapers
 - Sun Times (regional)
 - Chicago Tribune (regional)
 - Daily Herald (suburban area)

You can also walk or drive around areas you like and look for “for rent” signs, take down a number, and call!



Presenting Yourself to a Landlord

- Landlords have a process for interviewing potential tenants and each has his/her own set of forms that must be filled out.
- When you go to see a new unit take the following items with you:
 - Personal identification
 - Reference names and telephone numbers
 - Employment information
 - Request for Tenancy Approval

Interviewing Tips

- Arrive ten minutes early for your appointment
- Call if you are running late or need to cancel
- Dress as if you are going to a job interview
- Be confident and stand up straight, shake hands
- Smile and be friendly
- Speak clearly
- Ask questions
- Stay neutral; don't be too critical or commit too soon



Fair Housing

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) enforces the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination and the intimidation of people in their homes, apartment buildings, and condominium developments—in nearly all housing transactions, including the rental and sale of housing and provision of mortgage loans (Fair Lending).
- Fair housing involves individuals and families having the information, opportunity, and options to live where they choose without unlawful discrimination and other barriers.
- What is prohibited in the sale, rental of housing and in mortgage lending?
 - No one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin. Some examples are:
 - Refuse to rent or sell housing or make a mortgage loan; Refuse to negotiate for housing.
 - Make housing unavailable; Otherwise deny a dwelling; Set different terms.
 - Provide different housing services; Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection.

You can file a Housing Discrimination Complaint with HUD by contacting the National Discrimination Hotline 1-800-927-9275. For more information about the Fair Housing Act, please visit www.hud.gov/fairhousing.





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Twitter: @LakeCountyHA

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