

# CHOICES

Choose

Housing

Options

In

Communities

Empowering

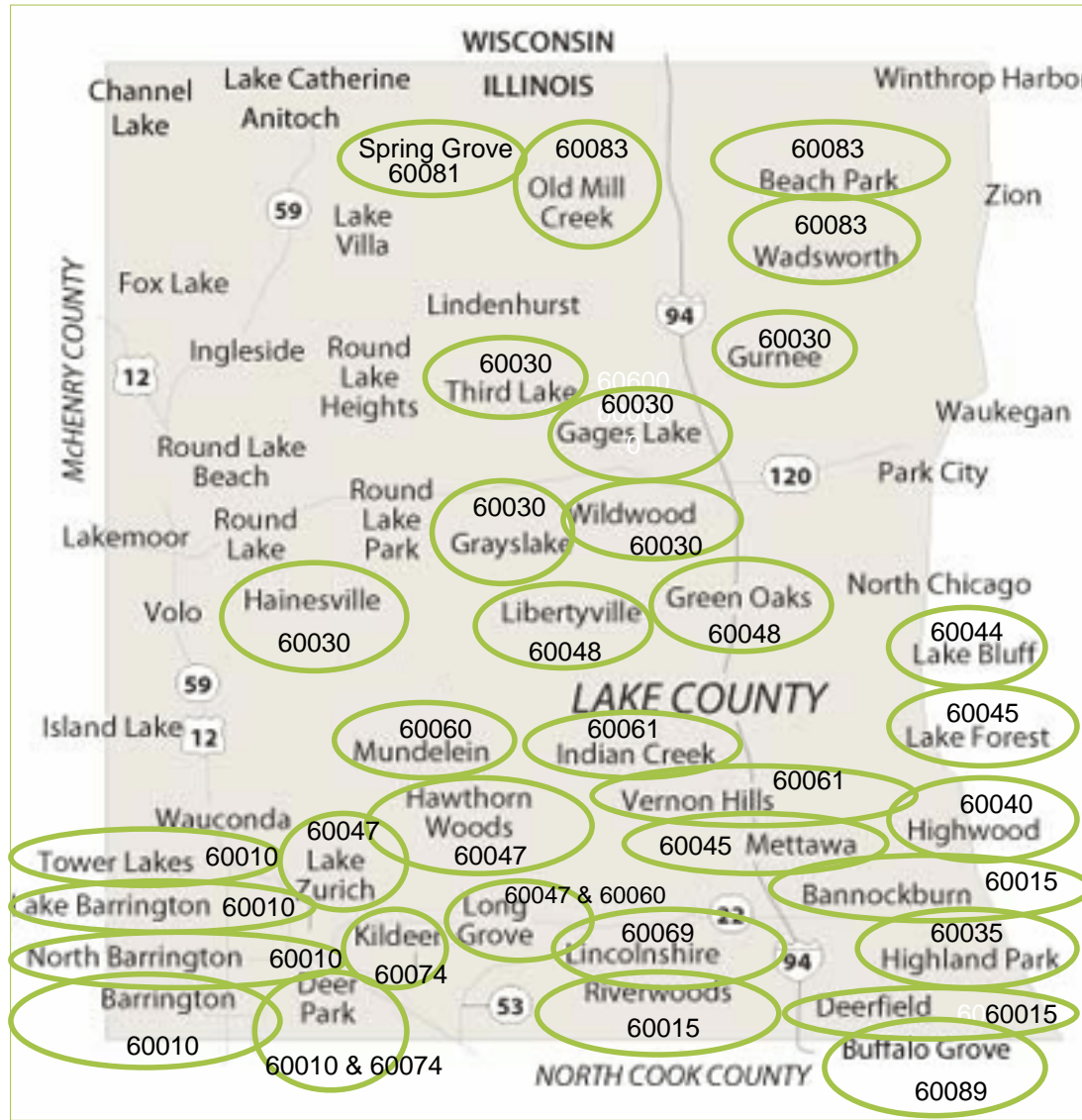
Self-Sufficiency



# CHOICES

**Opportunity Areas** in circled communities.

**Opportunity Area** qualification based on Zip Code



# YOU have a Chance to Participate in a Special Program

- CHOICES will support your interest in moving to a better home in a better neighborhood throughout Lake County.
- You'll be directed to communities and neighborhoods designated as Opportunity Areas.
- Find a new HOME in the best neighborhoods throughout Lake County



# What are Opportunity Areas?

- Opportunity areas have better schools, lower crime, more employment options, and better housing stability.
- They offer more diversity and lower poverty rates.
- Many voucher families currently live in opportunity areas and you can too.



# Opportunity Areas in Lake County

Bannockburn

Barrington

Barrington Hills

Beach Park

Buffalo Grove

Deer Park

Deerfield

Gages Lake

Grayslake

Green Oaks

Gurnee

Hainesville

Hawthorn Woods

Highland Park

Highwood

Indian Creek

Kildeer

Lake Barrington

Lake Bluff

Lake Forest



# Opportunity Areas in Lake County

Lake Zurich

Libertyville

Lincolnshire

Long Grove

Mettawa

Mundelein

North Barrington

Old Mill Creek

Spring Grove

Third Lake

Tower Lakes

Vernon Hills

Wadsworth

Wildwood

Not all Zip Codes in each  
Community are included.



# Why are these Opportunity Areas?

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

School Performance

Job Access

Unemployment Rate

Housing Stability

Median Home Value

Level of Poverty

Transit Accessibility

Travel time to work



# 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 PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers):

**36%** of all Illinois Middle School children met or exceeded the **English Language Arts (ELA)** State standard in 2016.

Opportunity Area schools in Barrington, Grayslake, and Vernon Hills had an average of **55%** of students that met or exceeded the ELA standard.

Traditional area schools in Lake County had an average of only **20%** of students that met or exceeded the ELA standard.

**31%** of all Illinois Middle School children met or exceeded the **Mathematics** State standard in 2016.

Opportunity Area schools in Barrington, Grayslake, and Vernon Hills had an average of **51%** of students that met or exceeded the Mathematics standard.

Traditional area schools in Lake County had an average of only **16%** of students that met or exceeded the Mathematics standard.

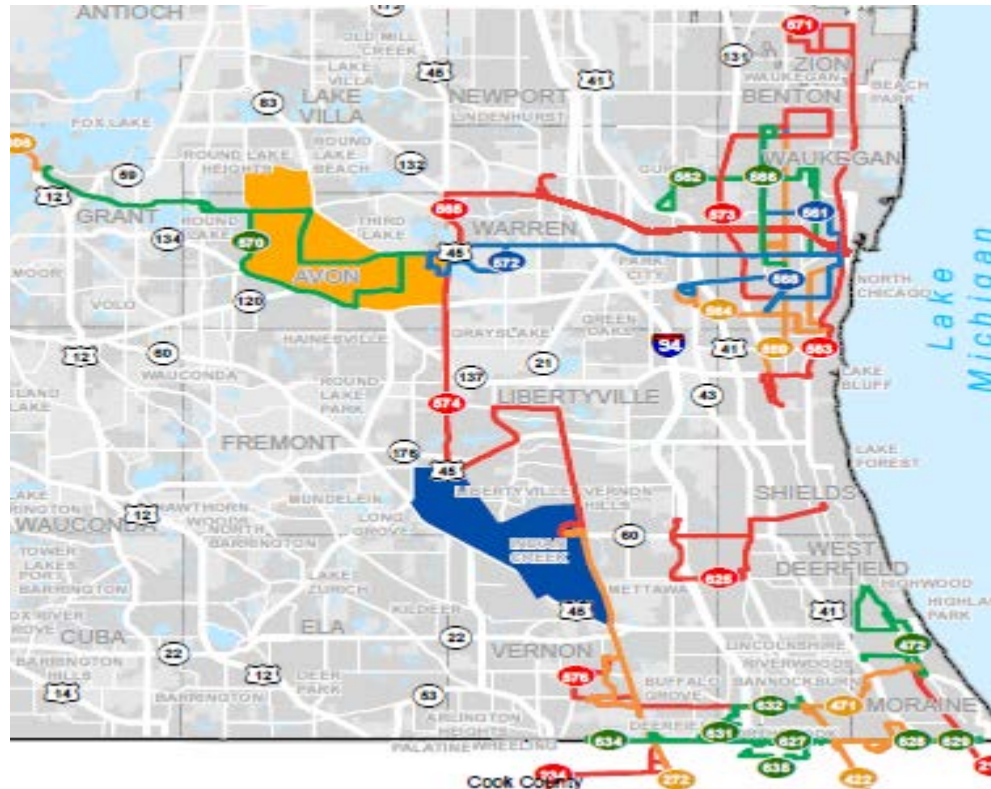
[www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org)





# 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.



## Interested in Areas with Many Employment Options?

Lake County had 11 of Illinois' 33 Fortune 500 companies headquarters in 2014.

Abbott Laboratories, Abbott 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’ve been searching in opportunity areas, your voucher could 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 (<http://www.socialserve.com>)
- Apartments.com
- Lake County Housing Authority web-site
- Newspaper web-sites or newspapers themselves
  - Sun-Times (regional)
  - Tribune (regional)
  - Daily Herald (suburban areas)

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 Do's and Don'ts

- Arrive ten minutes early for your appointment
- Call if you're running late or have to cancel
- Dress as if you're going to a job interview
- Don't wear excessive jewelry
- Don't smoke or ask to smoke
- 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
- Leave children and other family members at home



# Fair Housing – Equal Opportunity for All

- 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 housing choice involves individuals and families having the information, opportunity, and options to live where they choose without unlawful discrimination and other barriers and that their choices realistically include housing options in integrated areas and areas with access to opportunity.
- 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 lending discrimination complaint with HUD by contacting the National Discrimination Hotline 1-800-669-9777, or (TTY)1-800-927-9275. For more information about the Fair Housing Act, please visit [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing).**

