

Chris Ragona

Education:

Master's Degree in Public Service Management	DePaul University	2007-2010
Bachelor's Degree Business Administration/Urban Studies	Elmhurst College	2003-2007

Experience:

*Community Development Manager – City of Aurora Community Services Department, Illinois
September 2018 – Present*

- Direct supervisor of 11 staff to administer an annual budget of \$6 million dollars including CDBG and Quality of Life grant funding focusing on affordable housing, public service including education and assistance to seniors, and providing basic needs
- Liaison to the Public Art Division which features a city owned gallery, outdoor murals and sculptures, and various fests including Bom The Lot and Lumenaura Light Fest
- Liaison to the GAR Military Museum which includes city owned museum that provides 6 exhibits per year, summer camp, and other events driving tourism
- Liaison to the City's Grant Writer responsible for submitting 40+ unique grant opportunities annually
- Liaison to City Aldermen, City Mayor, HUD representatives, and public stakeholders during required internal audits, external audits, HUD monitorings, and public meetings.
- Assigns work, makes recommendations regarding hiring, directs the activities of assigned staff, and advancement of employees, and conducts annual performance reviews

*Community Development Manager – DuPage County, Illinois
January 2017 – September 2018*

- Direct supervisor of 10 staff to administer an annual allocation of \$6 million dollar in grants including HOME and CDBG focusing on affordable housing, public service, and neighborhood investment activities
- Assigns work, makes recommendations regarding hiring, directs the activities of assigned staff, and advancement of employees, and conducts annual performance reviews
- Liaison to County Commissioners, HUD representatives, and public stakeholders during required internal audits, external audits, and HUD monitorings
- Provides technical support and review to staff on CDBG, HOME, CDBG-DR, and ESG programs related to underwriting, financial and environmental review, eligibility of projects, Davis Bacon reporting, and all requirements of Federal regulations

*Senior Community Development Specialist – DuPage County, Illinois
June 2015 – December 2016*

- Staff liaison to Community Development Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) – responsible for financial reporting, developing and implementing action plan, and communicating with residents and municipalities on actions taking place
- Implemented needs assessment surveys to determine the highest priority of services for municipalities, non-profit agencies, and residents of DuPage County
- Created interactive map using Geographic Information Systems displaying accomplishments, locations, and summary of programs over a 10 year period for residents and elected officials
- Coordinated and developed information for 5 year consolidated plan as well as inputted and reviewed data into the IDIS system

*Community Development Specialist – DuPage County, Illinois
December 2013 – June 2015*

- Managed and reviewed the planning, financial, environmental, and compliance aspects of over \$5 million dollars through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR)
- Develop presentations, public informational items, and monthly staff reports for County Board meetings
- Implemented needs assessment surveys to determine the highest priority of services for municipalities, non-profit agencies, and residents of DuPage County
- Developed training documents for new staff to administer HOME Investment Partnership and environmental review process
- Responsible for HUD reports 60002, 4710, and 2516, and MBE/WBE Report

*Student Finance Advisor – DeVry University
January 2013 – October 2013*

- Create and maintain budgets in excess of \$80,000 by utilizing 20 different types of financial aid and provide analysis to current and prospective students to assure best allocation of funds using Oracle Applications
- Disseminate information to financial aid liaisons by attending meetings and providing updates regarding changes in regulations and organizational policies by using the Right Now ticketing system
- Conducted preliminary study to increase efficiency and reduce call volume by changing tuition billing cycle
- Provide nationwide campus support to over 96 campuses by traveling to conduct presentations to prospective students about using financial aid

*Research Specialist - University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)
March 2011 – August 2012*

- Provided nationwide observational research regarding environmental factors affecting childhood obesity in 22 states
- Interviewed city officials, homeowners, and store owners and collected qualitative and quantitative data in over 35 categories on 7 different data platforms
- Reviewed and categorized over 10,000 pieces of field data from over 250 locations to be processed for the data analysis portion of the study

Skills:

- Microsoft Word, Access, Excel, Power Point, Outlook
- Knowledge of IDIS, DRGR, and HEROS online systems
- Knowledge of CAPER, Action Plan, and Consolidated Plan Federal Requirements
- Knowledge of Geographic Information Systems

Awards and Certificates:

- 2021 Bloomberg Philanthropies Innovation Training Program
- 2019 Aurora Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy
- 2018 National Association for County Community and Economic Development Economic Development Award for the Aurora Arts Center Project
- 2017 National Association for County Community and Economic Development Innovation Award for GIS Story Map Project
- 2016 National Association for County Community and Economic Development HOME Investment Partnership Award for the Alden Senior Housing Development Project