



### ... housing opportunity

What the article did not uncover is that a great idea to create mixed-income housing in TIF districts has been kept under wraps by the Department of Housing and the corporation counsel's office for several years—a proposal similarly ignored by affordable housing and community advocates.

The idea is to tweak state legislation on the eligible uses of TIF funds that would apply to the city of Chicago so that they could support owners who reduce rents. TIF districts could set aside a percentage of their incremental savings each year to fund the highly acclaimed Chicago

Low-Income Housing Trust program, which would then dedicate back the funds to the generating TIFs to reduce a portion of rents for eligible owners.

With vacancies posing challenges to landlords, it would be a shame to pass on a chance to create homes within reach of people with low wages while shoring up the finances and prospects for responsible owners that manage mixed-income housing.

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