



Getting Smarter in Chicago

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Smart Chicago is a civic organization devoted to improving lives in Chicago through technology.



Technology

Open

Everyone

Chicago

Our Principles

Philosophy: everyone; Chicago

- We seek to be of use to everyone
 - We believe in the power of the network
 - The network needs everyone in it to be powerful
 - We work on solutions that cover the entire city
- We focus on Chicago
 - Our middle name
 - We do seek to scale our solutions, but not without serving Chicago

The Founders



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2 Philanthropies and 1 Municipality

- The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
 - A center for ideation and conception
 - 2007 report, “The City that NETWorks”
 - The primary source of funding
- Chicago Community Trust
 - Provides housing for the organization and is fiscal agent
 - At the center of funding and knowledge for the region
 - Critical financial, human resources, and other support
- The City of Chicago
 - The most important policy lever in the region
 - Departmental relationships
 - Getting things done



The Funding



"PASSING TWO LEAGUES VP THE RIVER WE RESOLVED
TO WINTER THERE * * * BEING DETAINED BY MY ILLNESS"

BUILDING

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Sources of Capital

- Founders
 - MacArthur: primary; essential
 - CCT: critical support; real dollars
 - City: BTOP; possible new sources at the Department levels
- Other philanthropies
 - Sprague: on-target programs
 - Pritzker: allied goals; serving as an IT shop
 - ISTC: expertise in the field of open data/ hackathons/ gov policy, etc
- People who need technology
 - Not a small group

The Strategy



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Access, Skills, and Data

- Access to the Internet for all
 - Broadband at home
 - Public computer centers and Community technology centers
 - Next generation stuff
- Skills once you're on the Internet
 - All on ramps
- Data so that there's something worth looking at once you're on and know how to work it
 - Apps
 - Infrastructure



The Work



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Infrastructure

- We focus on initiatives that amplify the work of others
- Server space for developers
- Lookup tools for public computer centers
- Convening methods for residents
- Exemplary/ illustrative tech projects
- Publishing data back to City portal
- Direct engagement with units of government that improve their capacity



chicagoflushots.org

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Get A Flu Shot All Next 7 Days On A Day Chicago Department of Public Health

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Hosted Web Space

- We host dozens of apps that we didn't make
- Amazon Web Service instances
- Quick setup, zero cost to developers
- With tech assistance
- URLs held in trust
- Light, behind-the-scenes help that pushes forward the work of others



Connect Chicago

No matter where you are.

Home

Locations

Learn

News & Events

About

Contact Us

Login

Find near an address ([find me](#))

Enter an address ...

1/2 mile search radius

Search

Reset

Show list

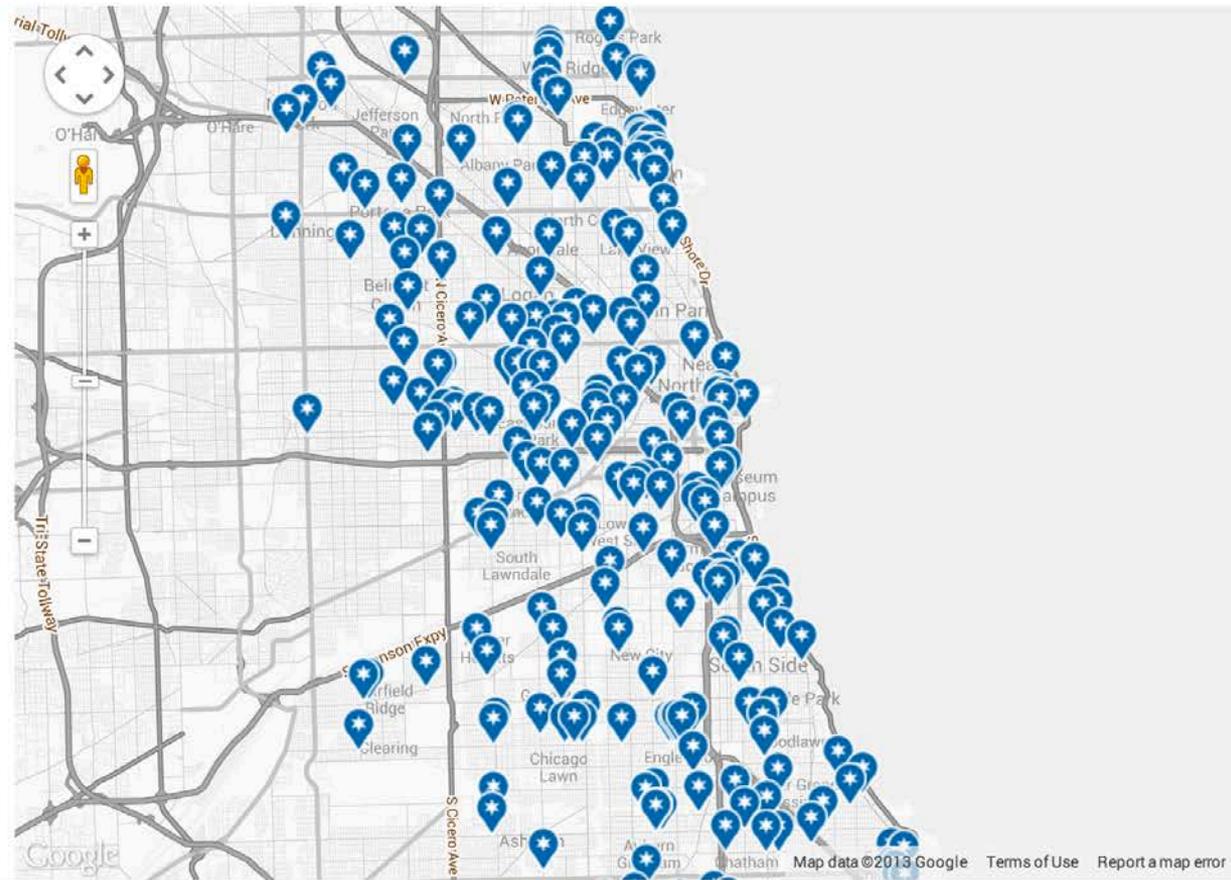
Show me locations that have ...

Internet Training Wi-Fi

and are ...

Any location type

257 locations found



Connect Chicago

- Connect Chicago is a loose network of more than 250 places in the city where internet and computer access, digital skills training, and online learning resources are available—for free.
- 311 uses it as an enterprise resource
- Dozens of the locations are admins, updating their own content
- This fresh data is exported nightly to the City's data portal
- We also conduct meetups of the workers in the field—pulling them together into a community of shared learning





Civic User Testing Group

- We pay regular Chicago residents to test civic apps
- Huge program– more than 800 people signed up; 11 tests conducted
- Covers all of our program
 - Access (held in public computer centers)
 - Skills (on both the resident and developer sides)
 - Data (making apps better and more popular)



Chicago Early Learning

- A website that allows parents and caregivers to find and compare early childhood programs
- We used city data to make it, but we improved the data with original work
- Another example of a quasi-enterprise tool

Expunge.io

- A website that allows people with juvenile records to kick off the process of expungement
- Rose from the work of youth, designed and driven by youth
- A powerful conceptual tool– it's not about technology, it's about the immense offline process
- A simple tool that encourages more offline behavior and can be deployed (both conceptually and in code) anywhere

Expunge Maryland.org

You had a run-in with the criminal system. You may have a criminal record and it may be preventing you from bettering your life.

However, you can do something about it.

If you meet certain requirements, you can get your criminal record erased through a process called expungement. ExpungeMaryland.org is a free online tool which helps determine, through a few simple questions, if your record can be expunged. The tool also suggests next steps which often include working with a lawyer. Your information is not saved or shared with anyone so it's important that you be as accurate as possible to ensure the most accurate result.

The entire online review takes less than 6 minutes. Let's get started!

[What is Expungement?](#)

[How can I expunge my record?](#)

[Can I expunge my record?](#)

DISCLAIMER: This site does not constitute a legal service.

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ADVOCATES
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



That's why infrastructure matters.

- Because Maryland youth have a new tool to make their lives better
- Thanks for listening.

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