



Rental Assistance Demonstration RADBlast!



HUD Releases Choice Neighborhoods Action and Planning Grants Funding

The Department is excited to announce the release of new **Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grants** funding available to help local communities across the country to redevelop severely distressed public and HUD-assisted housing and transform surrounding neighborhoods. Through the Choice Neighborhoods planning process local governments, housing authorities, residents, nonprofits, tribal authorities, private developers, school districts, police departments, and other civic organizations create a common vision and develop effective strategies to revitalize their neighborhood.

The Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grants of up to \$2 million enable communities to create a locally driven plan to transform struggling neighborhoods, as well as implement early improvements, such as implementing fresh food initiatives and attracting new businesses. Previously, Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant funds could only be used to create a neighborhood Transformation Plan. However, experience with Planning Grantees has shown that tangible, early actions help sustain community energy, attract new resources, and build momentum to turn that plan into reality.

Planning and Action Grant funds will enable Action Activities, such as:

- Reclaiming and recycling vacant property into community gardens, pocket parks, farmers markets, or land banking;
- Beautification, placemaking, and community arts projects;
- Neighborhood broadband/Wi-Fi;
- Fresh food initiatives; and
- Gap financing for economic development projects.

Choice Planning and Action Grants and RAD

PHAs that have not yet received a RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC) at the time of the application deadline may apply for a Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant. Applicants will receive additional points if a RAD Commitment to Enter into a HAP Contract (CHAP) has been secured for all of the housing targeted in their application. The Office of Recapitalization will offer flexibility with regard to the RAD milestones so that PHAs and their partners may take advantage of the Planning and Action Grants.

PHAs that are considering applying for RAD for demolition and new construction, or major rehabilitation or reconstruction, are encouraged to apply for a Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant. Please note that the Planning and Action Grants do not require that any housing be constructed, nor can you use grant funds to redevelop the targeted housing.

The Transformation Plan and locally driven Action Activities, together with RAD, can lay the foundation for revitalizing distressed public and/or assisted housing units, transforming the surrounding neighborhood, and promoting opportunities for families.

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant funds are available for public housing authorities, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and tribal entities. Applicants must submit a completed electronic application through www.grants.gov by February 9, 2016. HUD anticipates awarding approximately 4 Planning and Action Grants of up to \$2 million each, and approximately 4 Planning Grants of up to \$500,000 each. For more information about these grants, go to www.hud.gov/cn.

- The RAD Team

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