



Rental Assistance Demonstration RADBlast!



Choice Neighborhoods Action and Planning Grants Funding Available for RAD Projects

Last month, the Department announced the release of **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. 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 can 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

The Choice 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. 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 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 5 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. Applicants must state in their narrative that they meet this requirement.

As part of the Transformation Plan, grantees are required to create a housing plan that will meet the one-for-one replacement requirement. Planned replacement units can include project-based vouchers and Project-Based Rental Assistance, as enabled through a RAD conversion. RAD participants that are considering demolition, new construction, major rehabilitation, or reconstruction are strongly encouraged to apply for a Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant. Please note that these grants do not require that any housing be constructed, nor can they be used to redevelop targeted housing.

Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action 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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