

Chicago Heights, IL

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Housing Authority of Cook County

Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee: City of Chicago Heights

Target Public Housing Project: Sunrise Manor

Target Neighborhood: Downtown-Eastside

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$350,000

Key Partners:

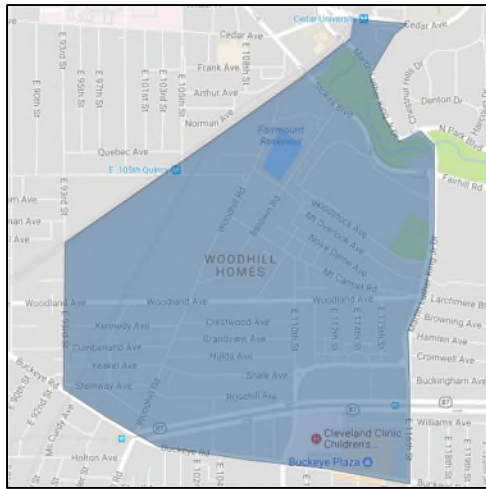
Cook County Department of Planning and Development | Elementary School District 170 | Prairie State College | Bloom Township High School District 206 | Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness Services | Chicago Heights Park District | IFF | Camiros, Ltd.

Project Summary:

Located in the ethnically-diverse, working class suburb of Chicago Heights, the Downtown-Eastside neighborhood faces significant challenges, including a poverty rate of 55 percent and a vacancy rate of over 26 percent. Downtown-Eastside also struggles with a crime rate that is almost three times that of the City and lacks an integrated social support services network. Additionally, the 172 public housing units of Sunrise Manor (which encompasses Sunrise Apartments, Daniel Bergen Homes and John Mackler Homes properties) remain severely distressed and exert a blighting influence on the neighborhood.

Despite these challenges, positive steps have been taken to strengthen the neighborhood and build on its existing assets. A variety of initiatives have been undertaken to increase safety, stabilize home values, and produce new housing in Downtown-Eastside. The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) and their partners have worked to clear derelict buildings, setting the stage for new development. Downtown-Eastside also has a PACE suburban transit bus transfer facility, which provides transit access to employment opportunities, education, and social services. Meanwhile, the broader area of Chicago Heights has a strong industrial base, including a Ford Motor Company Stamping Plant, and efforts are underway to improve the business climate and expand industry and employment. The recently adopted Chicago Heights Comprehensive Plan will provide a firm foundation on which to begin the visioning for Downtown-Eastside.

The award of this \$350,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will allow HACC, the City, the community, and their partners to build upon the efforts and investments already underway in Downtown-Eastside, and to develop a comprehensive Transformation Plan for the revitalization of the neighborhood. The Plan will be developed using a community-based, bottom-up planning approach that optimizes the resources and commitments of local stakeholders, builds on successful programs and investments already in place, and organizes the actions of local anchor institutions, service providers, governmental entities, businesses, and residents.



Cleveland, OH

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority

Target Public Housing Project: Woodhill Homes

Target Neighborhood: Woodhill

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$350,000

Key Partners:

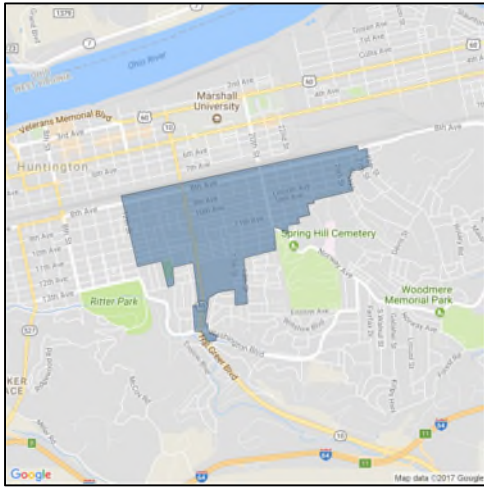
Woodhill Local Advisory Council | City of Cleveland | Cleveland Neighborhood Progress | Cleveland Foundation | Saint Luke's Foundation | Cleveland Metropolitan School District | Buckeye Shaker Square Development Corporation | Western Reserve Revitalization & Management Company | Telesis

Project Summary:

As a once-thriving Midwestern industrial city, the City of Cleveland has experienced the pains that come from a steady decline in population and industry during the second half of the twentieth century. While, overall, the City of Cleveland has reinvented itself, the historic Woodhill neighborhood remains disconnected and isolated from the city's fabric. Woodhill is still struggling to fully overcome past challenges, including lingering effects from the 1999 closure of the 105-year-old St. Luke's Medical Center. The neighborhood suffers from a 55 percent poverty rate and a 30 percent unemployment rate – more than four times that of the city. The neighborhood also contains the 487 severely distressed public housing units of Woodhill Homes, whose physical condition continues to depress the surrounding area.

Despite these challenges, the neighborhood possesses many of the qualities and assets critical to realizing a successful transformation effort. Woodhill is located in one of the city's investment priority areas and lies adjacent to three major transportation projects that will ultimately connect the neighborhood to employment centers and Downtown Cleveland. The neighborhood is also home to three major anchor institutions: The Cleveland Clinic; Case Western University; and University Circle, Inc. Over the past decade, more than \$113 million from public and private sectors has been invested in the neighborhood, leading to an influx of new housing, public art, parks and green spaces, housing rehabilitation, schools, and collaborative efforts to rehabilitate the St. Luke's Medical Center building.

Through the \$350,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), Woodhill residents, and their partners will harness the momentum started with these investments and create a focused, cohesive Transformation Plan for the neighborhood. CMHA will lead the two-year planning process that will strategically focus reinvestment in the neighborhood, targeting deteriorated places and capitalizing on existing assets. They will employ a robust resident and community engagement strategy to ensure that resident, business, stakeholder, and partner voices guide the vision for the Woodhill Choice Neighborhood.



Huntington, WV

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: City of Huntington

Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee: Huntington Housing Authority

Target Public Housing Project: Northcott Court

Target Neighborhood: Fairfield

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$350,000

Key Partners:

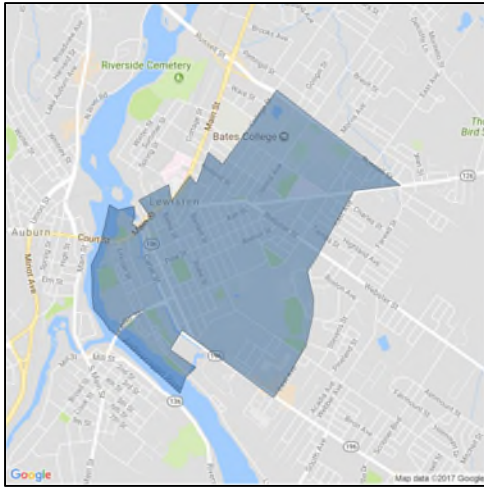
Fairfield Alliance | Fairfield Choice Neighborhood Task Force | Cabell Huntington Hospital | Marshall University | Marshall Health | Coalfield Development Corporation | Cabell County Schools | Huntington Police Department | Foundation for the Tri-State Community | Margaret Mary Lane

Project Summary:

In April 2017, the City of Huntington, WV was designated as “America’s Best Community” in a national challenge. This designation was an extraordinary step forward for a city that had been suffering from persistent poverty, population decline, budget crises, a struggling economy, and the worst heroin overdose rate in the nation. Huntington’s quest to move from “worst-to-first” is based largely on their effort to renew the economically distressed Fairfield neighborhood. With a poverty rate of more than 46 percent, a crime rate double the city’s, and a vacancy rate of nearly 23 percent, Fairfield is one of Huntington’s most distressed areas. The neighborhood has been the primary location in the city for public and assisted housing for over 75 years. This concentration includes the obsolete and deteriorating 130-unit Northcott Court public housing complex. The surrounding neighborhood is marked by brownfields and blight and is one of the places at the center of the opioid crisis.

Despite these challenges, Fairfield is a resilient community with many strong assets to build upon. At the south end of the neighborhood, Fairfield contains several hospitals and medical facilities, including the Marshall School of Medicine. On the north end, just beyond the train tracks that border the neighborhood, lies the downtown area and Marshall University’s main campus. In between these points, the neighborhood contains the locally treasured A.D. Lewis Community Center and other community-serving institutions. Most importantly, Fairfield has a broad range of community members, stakeholders, and institutions who are dedicated to improving the neighborhood.

With the award of a \$350,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, the City of Huntington, Huntington Housing Authority, the community, and their partners will leverage these assets and the City’s “America’s Best Community” designation to revitalize the Fairfield neighborhood. The Choice Neighborhoods planning process will be guided by the 25-member Fairfield Choice Neighborhoods Task Force and the Fairfield Alliance, a coalition of over 30 organizations chaired by the Cabell Huntington Hospital CEO and a lifelong Fairfield resident. Through this grant, they will envision a Fairfield with a grocery store and other retail, new housing, vibrant streets, and economic opportunities for families.



Lewiston, ME

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: City of Lewiston

Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee: Community Concepts, Inc.

Target Assisted Housing Project: Maple Knoll Development

Target Neighborhood: Downtown/Tree Streets

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$1,300,000

Key Partners:

Healthy Neighborhoods Planning Council | Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services | Saint Mary's Health System | Tree Street Youth | The Root Cellar | Take 2 YouthBuild | Lewiston Workforce Initiative Longley and Montello Elementary Schools | Bates College | John T. Gorman Foundation

Project Summary:

The Downtown/Tree Streets community of Lewiston, ME has joined together to turn the tide against a pattern of disinvestment and blight. Downtown/Tree Streets is home to City Hall, three local anchor institutions (Central Maine Medical Center, St. Mary's Hospital, Bates College), and new industry in the riverfront mills. The neighborhood also hosts a diverse community, including families from several African countries who have fled ethnic violence. However, the area is dominated by vacant lots and distressed housing. All 489 HUD assisted units in the City of Lewiston are concentrated in this one neighborhood, including the severely distressed Maple Knolls housing development. Non-assisted housing is also largely distressed, consisting of cheaply constructed 3-6 story walkups from the late 1800's to early 1900's. Arsons over the last several years have burned down 13 buildings and left over 220 people homeless. Neighborhood children face further challenges. They are exposed to a high lead poisoning rate and attend one of the lowest performing elementary schools in the state.

Over the last decade, the Downtown/Tree Streets community has organized to advance the health of the neighborhood they call home. Responding to a 2005 City plan that would have displaced 850 people by running a four-lane boulevard through the neighborhood's center, residents formed The Visible Community (TVC). Comprised of long-time residents and new-comers, TVC spent a year door knocking, organizing, and turning out neighbors for public meetings. TVC successfully halted the City's Plan and created the People's Downtown Master Plan, which set priorities for transit, housing, and economic opportunities. The City, recognizing this engagement, established a neighborhood task force and has worked with TVC on issues such as stronger code enforcement and lead abatement.

Since this time, additional strides have been made. Self-organized parent and community efforts have focused on improving the elementary school. A foundation formed a coalition of residents and civic agencies focused on health, wellness, and education outcomes called the Healthy Neighborhoods Planning Council. Now, the City, Community Concepts Inc., the community, and their partners will use the \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant to accelerate their progress. As a community-based coalition, the Healthy Neighborhoods Planning Council will be the main decision-making body for the Choice Neighborhoods initiative. The John T. Gorman Foundation has committed \$450,000 to the Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action effort. Together, these entities will create a comprehensive neighborhood plan and launch Action Activities to begin transforming Downtown/Tree Streets into a vibrant neighborhood.



Los Angeles, CA

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

Target Public Housing Projects: Rancho San Pedro and Rancho San Pedro Extension

Target Neighborhood: Barton Hill-Downtown San Pedro

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$1,300,000

Key Partners:

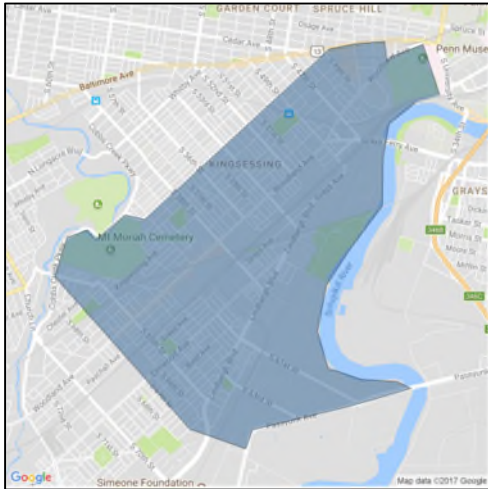
Rancho San Pedro Resident Advisory Council | City Council District 15 | Toberman Neighborhood Center | San Pedro Neighborhood Councils | Boys & Girls Club | Pacific Gateway Workforce Innovation Network | Chamber of Commerce | LA Conservation Corps | EJP Consulting Group, LLC

Project Summary:

The Barton Hill-Downtown neighborhood, located in the San Pedro community of Los Angeles, is well poised to take advantage of recent investments. The neighborhood sits at the edge of the Port of LA, the busiest port in the United States. Over the last decade, the Port has invested \$600 million in improvements to the waterfront area that abuts the eastern border of the neighborhood, including the construction of a new promenade. Two other projects that are currently underway, a \$150 million retail and dining destination and a new marine research facility, will also reshape the nearby waterfront. Meanwhile, on the northwestern corner of the neighborhood, the City has recently created gateway and streetscape improvements.

The Barton Hill-Downtown community is ready to capitalize on these investments and overcome challenges created by an over-concentration of poorly designed public housing. In 1942, the target housing development, Rancho San Pedro, was built in the neighborhood for shipyard workers during WWII. An extension to the housing was developed a little over a decade later in 1954. Arranged in superblock configurations of long, monotonous buildings, today, the 478 units at Rancho San Pedro and Rancho San Pedro Extension stand in stark contrast to the surrounding neighborhood and suffer from failing building systems. In addition to these obsolete buildings, the neighborhood suffers from a high poverty rate and a perception of being unsafe, despite low violent crime rates. However, Barton-Hill Downtown, is also home to a highly engaged community. From the Rancho San Pedro Resident Advisory Council to the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council and the local City Council District office, community members are committed to seeing their neighborhood thrive.

With the \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, the community, and their many partners will create a plan to transform the neighborhood. The planning process calls for a deep level of community and stakeholder engagement, including outreach by trained Community Coaches and a Community Advisory Council that will be responsible for the development of transformation strategies. The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Team will also use a portion of the Planning and Action Grant funds to support community development and economic activities that will catapult their neighborhood Transformation Plan into action.



Philadelphia, PA

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Philadelphia Housing Authority

Target Public Housing Project: Bartram Village

Target Neighborhood: Kingsessing

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$1,300,000

Key Partners:

Bartram Village Resident Council | City of Philadelphia | Drexel University | Pennrose | Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation | Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority | Philadelphia Water Department | Wallace Roberts and Todd

Project Summary:

Once a vibrant home to low- and middle-income workers, the Kingsessing neighborhood – which stretches along the western edge of the Schuylkill River across from Center City Philadelphia – has experienced significant decline from the relocation of industrial facilities. The loss of these facilities has resulted in significant population drops and disinvestment in housing and commercial sectors. Within Kingsessing is Bartram Village, a public housing development originally built in the 1940s as defense worker housing. This development has become aged and worn, with many structural deficiencies in need of address. Around it, the neighborhood experiences high rates of poverty, unemployment, crime and vacancy – all of which exceed the citywide averages.

Despite its neighborhood challenges, Kingsessing has substantial assets that can be leveraged and enhanced through coordinated planning and investment strategies. Neighborhood assets include two major publicly funded recreation centers, a University of Sciences campus, a healthy commercial corridor along Woodland Avenue, frequent light rail service to Center City, and planned fast rail service to the Philadelphia International Airport. Kingsessing is also the site of thousands of acres of former industrial land, much of which is owned by the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and envisioned as a new Innovation District under their Lower Schuylkill Master Plan. This concept plans to connect Kingsessing to nearby University City, an economic engine and job center in the City of Philadelphia.

With a \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant, the Kingsessing Choice Neighborhoods team will create a Transformation Plan that capitalizes on these assets and repositions the neighborhood. The Philadelphia Housing Authority, along with their many partners, will lead a two-year, community planning process. Building upon this plan, the Choice Neighborhoods team will be able to use a portion of the Planning and Action Grant funds to support community and economic development activities to jumpstart the implementation of the Transformation Plan and position the neighborhood for reinvestment. Matched with the City's recent designation of Kingsessing as a Place-Based Community Investment Strategy Area, the neighborhood will be prioritized and primed for new public and private investments.