

Baltimore, MD

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Housing Authority of Baltimore City

Target Public Housing Project: Poe Homes

Target Neighborhood: Poppleton-Hollins Market

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

Key Partners: Baltimore City Council | Baltimore City Public Schools | Baltimore Public Markets Corporation | Bon Secours | City of Baltimore | Cohado | Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake | Home Free USA | La Cité Development | Poe Homes Tenant Council | Poppleton NOW | Southwest Partnership | The Y in Central Maryland | University of Maryland Bio Park | War Horse Cities CDC

Project Summary:

Located only one-half mile west of downtown Baltimore and adjacent to the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) campus, the Poppleton-Hollins Market neighborhood is one of Baltimore's oldest areas. With the development of manufacturing in the 1800s, this neighborhood provided some of the first housing for the area's growing workforce. Since the beginning of the 20th Century however, racial segregation, urban renewal and other actions have left an indelible mark on the community. Today, the neighborhood's poverty rate is 47 percent and its Part I violent crime rate averages nearly double that of the City's. In the midst of the neighborhood, sits the 286-unit Poe Homes, the city's oldest public housing development. Now nearly 80 years old, Poe Homes is physically and functionally obsolete with a design that isolates it from the surrounding community.

Despite its challenges, investments in the area over the last decade are beginning to bolster the neighborhood's market. In 2005, the University of Maryland BioPark opened on the west side of MLK Boulevard, sparking a flurry of additional investment activity. Meanwhile, via the Southwest Partnership (SWP), neighborhood and institutional leaders from seven neighborhoods including Poppleton-Hollins Market have come together to develop the SWP Vision Plan and begin implementing transformative projects across the broader area. These changing market dynamics and the presence of strong community partners create a unique opportunity to reimagine the Poppleton-Hollins Market neighborhood.

With the \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant, the Housing Authority of the City of Baltimore will lead a community-driven process to establish a roadmap to meet the needs and realize the hopes of residents. Local resident organizations – including the Poe Homes Tenant Council, Poppleton NOW and Hollins Roundhouse Neighborhood Association (HRNA) – are eager to participate in the planning process by helping to engage residents and serving on key committees. A variety of community engagement events, such as open houses, charrettes and focus groups, will be also held throughout the planning process. These and other initiatives will help inform the development of a comprehensive neighborhood plan that will foster the development of new and improved housing; quality health, educational and employment services; and continued neighborhood revitalization.



Camden, NJ

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Housing Authority of the City of Camden

Target Public Housing Project: Ablett Village

Target Neighborhood: Cramer Hill

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$350,000

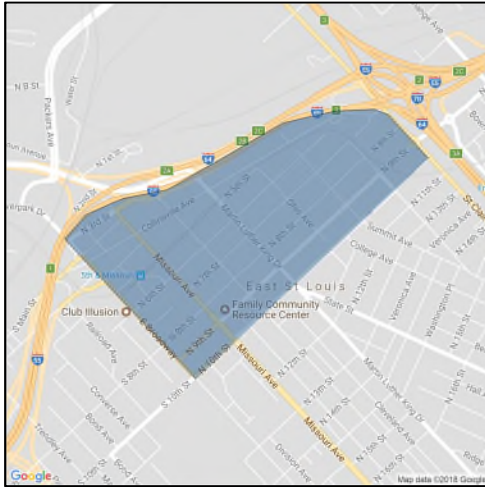
Key Partners: Ablett Village Resident Association | Camden County Police Department | Camden County Workforce Board | Camden Redevelopment Agency | Camden School District | Cathedral Kitchen | Centennial Village | Cooper's Ferry Partnership | Cramer Hill Residents Association | Hispanic Clergy of Camden | Invincible City Farms | Mastery Charter Schools | Mi Casa Village | New Jersey DEP | Rutgers University | Salvation Army Kroc Center | South Jersey Federal Credit Union | St. Joseph's Carpenter Society

Project Summary:

The Cramer Hill neighborhood consists of a proud community that is already making strides towards revitalization. Nearly ten years ago, an out of state developer proposed to displace 1,200 neighborhood families to make way for a golf course and big box retail stores. The plan was ultimately halted, galvanizing the community to create their own vision. As a result of the community's efforts, Cramer Hill has attracted several key investments. A \$40 million state-of-the-art sports, recreation, and community center was created, repurposing the site of a former landfill by the river. A new manufacturing plant that created 250 jobs in the community was established across from the target housing. A charter school was established, new storm water infrastructure and landscape improvements at a key park were installed, and a \$34 million waterfront park is planned for the near future.

The award of the \$350,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will enable the Housing Authority of the City of Camden, the Cramer Hill community, and their partners to create a comprehensive Transformation Plan that will address the neighborhood's more persistent challenges. Building upon the community's momentum, the plan will focus on tackling Cramer Hill's high poverty rate, low educational attainment, flooding issues, vacancy, obsolete neighborhood infrastructure, and need to restore River Road as a vibrant commercial corridor. The plan will also provide a roadmap to rebuild the target housing of Ablett Village – a seventy-five-year-old public housing development of 306 units arranged in long, monotonous buildings – into a mixed-income community that is well-integrated into the broader neighborhood.

Already, 40 partners have committed to supporting this planning process. Stakeholders range from the Cramer Hill's Resident Association and St Joseph's Carpenter Society, a well-respected leader in Camden housing and economic development, to the Camden School District, Rutgers University, and faith-based institutions. This broad enthusiasm and involvement will result in a successful blueprint for Cramer Hill's transformation.



East St. Louis, IL

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Urban Strategies, Inc.

Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee: Housing Authority of the City of East St. Louis

Target Public Housing Project: Samuel Gompers Homes

Target Neighborhood: Downtown East St. Louis

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$350,000

Key Partners:

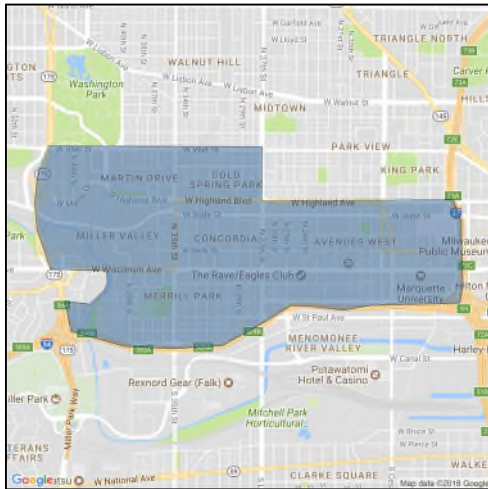
Bi-State Development/Metro | Christian Activity Center | City of East St. Louis | City of East St. Louis Police Department | Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center | East Side Aligned | East Side Heart & Homes/Catholic Urban Programs | East St. Louis School District 189 | McCormack Barron Salazar | Southern Illinois University | Touchette Regional Hospital | United Way of Greater St. Louis

Project Summary:

Formerly an economic powerhouse, in recent decades Downtown East St. Louis has lost industry and population due to deindustrialization and railroad restructuring. Buildings that were once architectural gems now sit abandoned, and residential areas are characterized by substandard housing and vacant lots. Downtown East St. Louis also struggles with a dramatically high poverty rate of 82 percent. Further contributing to the neighborhood's distress is the 240-unit Samuel Gompers Homes public housing development, which is rife with structural and design deficiencies.

Downtown East St. Louis, however, has neighborhood strengths that can create the foundation for change. Its proximity to the Mississippi River and the City of St. Louis is an enduring asset. In recent years, the city has also established a TIF district to help attract new investment. A new \$8 million, 200-acre multi-modal transportation project to service the Port of East St. Louis is currently underway and is expected to stimulate business and economic development in the neighborhood. Local nonprofits also continue to invest in the community. Eastside Heart and Home recently completed 16 homeowner units and plans to produce more. The Christian Activity Center, another local nonprofit, has plans to develop a performance center and recreational area on land adjacent to Samuel Gompers Homes.

Through the \$350,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, Urban Strategies, Inc. and the Housing Authority of the City of East St. Louis will work with local residents and a variety of community stakeholders – including nonprofits, faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, supportive services agencies, businesses, and others – to create a forward-looking Transformation Plan. Through this planning process, community members and stakeholders will identify local assets, discuss current challenges, and create a vision for the future. These efforts will create an integrated and holistic plan to revitalize Samuel Gompers Homes, improve neighborhood safety, and bolster education, health, and employment outcomes for families.



Milwaukee, WI

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Marquette University
Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee: Near West Side Partners
Target Assisted Housing Project: College Court
Target Neighborhood: Near West Side
Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$1,300,000

Key Partners:

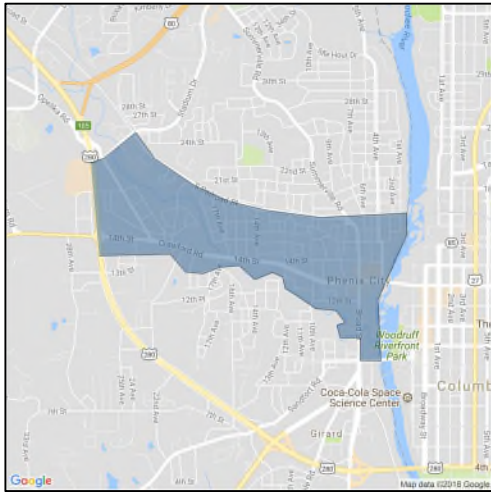
Aurora Health Care | Business Improvement District #10 | City of Milwaukee | Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee | Harley-Davidson | LISC | Marquette Democracy Lab | MillerCoors | Milwaukee Police Department | Milwaukee Public Schools | Potawatomi Business Development Corporation | Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership / BIG STEP

Project Summary:

Just west of Milwaukee's downtown, the Near West Side was once an area with thriving commercial corridors, major employers, high-performing schools, seven hospitals, two universities, verdant parks, strong connections among residents, and a vibrant mix of amenities. However, over the past half century, the Near West Side has fallen into a continuous state of decline. Residents who worked in the neighborhood no longer chose to live there, and amenities, such as grocery stores and restaurants, faded. The neighborhood's housing stock similarly declined while crime increased.

Throughout these years of decline, Marquette University along with other major anchor institutions, such as MillerCoors, Aurora Health Care, Potawatomi Business Development Corporation and Harley-Davidson, remained steadfast anchors in the neighborhood, working individually to address the growing blight, crime, and neighborhood distress surrounding them. In 2014, these anchor institutions established Near West Side Partners (NWSP) in order to work in partnership with residents and other community stakeholders to develop a more coordinated approach to the neighborhood's issues. Among the anchors, Marquette University works with NWSP on a daily basis given its commitment to and large presence in the neighborhood.

This unique collaboration between Marquette University, NWSP, and residents has led to a variety of plans for improving the Near West Side. These plans have resulted in several transformational changes in the community, including the opening of two grocery stores and 18 businesses, improved neighborhood lighting, closure of a problematic tobacco shop, and most importantly a stronger, more authentic relationship between residents, businesses, and other stakeholders. To build upon this momentum, Marquette University and NWSP will use the \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant to develop a comprehensive Transformation Plan that encompasses past plans with an eye towards improving housing opportunities for residents. Particularly, the team will create a roadmap to revitalize the distressed, 248-unit College Court public housing development and increase investment in the surrounding neighborhood. Marquette University and NWSP will work with residents and stakeholders to develop consensus on desired outcomes and create a shared, comprehensive vision for the Near West Side.



Phenix City, AL

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Housing Authority of the City of Phenix City

Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee: City of Phenix

Target Public Housing Project: Frederick Douglass Homes

Target Neighborhood: Frederick Douglass

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$250,000

Key Partners: East Alabama Chamber of Commerce | Enrichment Services Program, Inc. | Frederick Douglass Resident Council | Quality of Life Health Services, Inc. | NeighborWorks Columbus | Phenix City Schools | Synovos – East Alabama | Troy University | United Way

Project Summary:

The Frederick Douglass neighborhood is located in Phenix City, a small town set on the Chattahoochee River. The neighborhood is home to the 272-unit Frederick Douglass Homes public housing development, comprised of 39 structurally distressed, barracks-style buildings. When the development was built in 1941, the Frederick Douglass neighborhood was considered a community of opportunity that offered families access to quality jobs in a thriving, diverse area. Although residents remain proud of their neighborhood, today it faces significant challenges. Local schools are struggling, the neighborhood's housing stock is severely distressed, and its poverty rate is over 40 percent.

In the midst of these challenges, the community has several neighborhood and economic assets it can leverage for future growth. These assets include a local university, public parks, health care facilities, private businesses and several engaged faith-based institutions. One of the neighborhood's greatest strengths is residents' high level of involvement in their community. Additionally, following the adoption of the City's "Comprehensive Community Master Plan," significant progress has been made in revitalizing the nearby downtown area, setting the stage for growth in the Frederick Douglass neighborhood.

With a \$250,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, the Housing Authority of the City of Phenix City and the City of Phenix City will lead residents and neighborhood leaders in developing a comprehensive Transformation Plan for the Frederick Douglass Choice Neighborhood. Through the planning process, Housing, People and Neighborhood Working Groups will focus on identifying needs, priorities and strategies that will help to redevelop distressed housing, increase opportunities for residents, and revitalize the surrounding neighborhood. To begin to improve the neighborhood, during the planning process the Housing Authority and the City will launch a "Lots of Value" program through which they will develop ideas to beautify and repurpose vacant lots around the Frederick Douglass site. These and other efforts will help to create momentum for a planning process that will address the neighborhood's comprehensive needs and help local leaders build a stronger community.



Tucson, AZ

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: City of Tucson

Target Assisted Housing Project: Tucson House

Target Neighborhood: Oracle

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

Key Partners:

Amphitheater School District | Arizona State University | Art for All | Chicanos Por La Causa | Community Food Bank | Cook Tucson Market | Gospel Rescue Mission | Habitat for Humanity | La Frontera | Neighborhood Associations | Pascua Yaqui Tribe | Pima Association of Governments | Pima Community College | Pima County Health Department | Poster Frost Mirto | Rose Center Fellowship | St. Elizabeth Health Center | The Planning Center | Tucson Community Based Crime Reduction Initiative | Tucson Historic Preservation | Tucson House Resident Council | Tucson Police Department | United Way | University of Arizona

Project Summary:

Oracle, a neighborhood of eight small communities, was once the site of a vital automobile gateway to Tucson and a booming tourism industry. Dubbed the “Miracle Mile,” the route remained popular through the 1960s, generating thriving motor court and entertainment venues. However, by the 1970’s, travelers had bypassed the route in favor of the new interstate, drying up revenue and leading to the area’s decline. As part of that decline, a formerly prominent hotel, Tucson House, was left abandoned and eventually became a 408-unit public housing development. Currently, the Tucson House development is severely distressed and the neighborhood suffers from an exceedingly high vacancy rate, a lack of opportunities for residents, concentrated poverty, and chronic crime.

Despite these challenges, the Oracle neighborhood is well poised for transformation. Over a decade ago, a group of committed residents approached the City to help tackle challenging issues. Their efforts resulted in extensive public engagement, a Citizens Steering Committee, the development of a business association, public arts projects, and an initiative to develop a Historic Landmark Signs Ordinance. Recently, the City has also implemented several redevelopment initiatives, and the Arizona State University, a key planning partner, was awarded a U.S. Department of Justice Innovations in Community-Based Crime Reduction grant to address crime in the neighborhood. Additionally, Oracle has strong institutional assets, including the Pima Community College Downtown Campus and over 500 businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based institutions.

Capitalizing on these strengths, the City of Tucson, the community, and their partners will use the \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant to create an impactful Transformation Plan and launch Action Activities. The planning process will center around a robust community engagement process based on community organizing principles and a high-quality resident leadership training program. Following an extensive needs assessment, a diverse set of partners, target housing residents, the neighborhood’s tribal community, and other community residents will develop a comprehensive set of strategies and Action Activities to implement positive change.