

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants

Creating a Vision for Neighborhood Revitalization

HUD is currently accepting applications for Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants. HUD anticipates awarding up to \$10 million for Planning Grants due to increased appropriations for FY22. For more information and to view the funding announcement, visit www.hud.gov/cn.

BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

HUD's Choice Neighborhoods program offers up to **\$500,000 for each Planning Grant** to create a community-driven "Transformation Plan." A two-year planning process allows grantees to build the support necessary to implement a comprehensive plan for neighborhood revitalization with a primary focus on the redevelopment of a HUD-assisted housing project or projects.

THREE CORE GOALS

Neighborhood Transformation Plans are comprehensive and focused on three core goals – **"Housing, People, and Neighborhood."** To meet these goals, grantees plan to replace distressed public housing or other HUD-assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing; improve opportunities for residents; and catalyze physical improvements in the surrounding neighborhood.

ELIGIBILITY

Public housing authorities, local governments, nonprofits, and tribal entities are eligible to apply for Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants. Applications must "target" a severely distressed public housing and/or other HUD-assisted housing project(s) within a neighborhood with a poverty rate of 20 percent or higher.

Communities of all sizes are eligible for and encouraged to apply for Choice Neighborhoods grants. Planning Grantees represent small towns, mid-sized cities, and large urban areas.



Moving Our Neighborhood Forward

Mt. Ephraim Choice Neighborhood

Transformation Plan



MANTUA TRANSFORMATION PLAN

FINAL SUBMISSION - JUNE 29, 2013



BENEFITS OF A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT

- Play a major role in neighborhood revitalization
- Funding for activities such as market studies, environmental reviews, and resident surveys
- Funds may be used for a “planning coordinator,” a contracted entity that coordinates the process and helps build local capacity
- Meaningfully engage residents to create a positive outlook for the future
- Attract partners and generate positive attention for distressed neighborhoods
- Up to \$150,000 of the grant may be used for physical neighborhood improvements to build positive momentum; example activities include public art, placemaking, vacant lot utilization, and fresh food initiatives
- Since 2013, approximately 75% of Implementation Grant awards were made to Planning Grantees. **The maximum grant award for a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant is \$50 million.** Planning Grantees may receive additional points and priority for future Implementation Grant applications. Many past grantees who have not pursued an Implementation Grant have nonetheless turned key pieces of their plan into a reality.

WHAT PAST PLANNING GRANTEES HAVE TO SAY

A 2020 survey of Planning Grantees indicated 92% would recommend a Planning Grant to another community, with 87% saying **the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant was different from other planning efforts due to its expansive partnerships and high levels of community engagement.** All past grantees reported new partnerships and strengthening of existing partnerships. Demonstrating outcomes, 81% of grantees offered new resident services and 74% completed neighborhood investments because of the planning effort. More than one-third redeveloped the HUD-assisted housing, with the remaining scheduled to start development in the foreseeable future.

MORE INFORMATION

Choice Neighborhoods is HUD’s signature place-based program, managed by the Office of Public Housing Investments. More information, including links to Notices of Funding Opportunities, access to Choice Neighborhoods newsletters, and examples of Transformation Plans can be found at <https://www.hud.gov/cn>. Potential applicants may also send questions to ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov.