
Choice Neighborhoods

monthly news about transforming housing, people, & neighborhoods

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUD Offers Resident Organizing and Participation Toolkit

The [Resident Organizing and Participation Toolkit](#) provides a collection of resources to help achieve HUD's goals to support resident organizations (Notice PIH-2021-16). The full toolkit, developed by HUD's Office of Public Housing Programs, includes nine (9) topical [guides](#), [customizable resident council documents and forms](#) (e.g., bylaws, election forms), [tools related to tenant participation funds](#), and [case studies](#) of resident councils around the country. The toolkit is currently available in English and [Spanish](#).

HUD Announces New Rule Requiring 30-Day Notice Prior to Lease Termination

HUD [announced](#) a new rule that requires residents in the public housing program and certain project-based rental assistance programs to receive at least 30 days notice before a lease termination. For the public housing program, the new rule requires that Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) provide all tenants notice of available Emergency Rental Assistance funds. PIH and the Office of Housing have posted [policy guidance](#) to help PHAs comply with these requirements.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

AmeriCorps State and National Grants

[AmeriCorps](#) members engage in community service through an approved national service position and may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices to strengthen communities. Application deadline: January 5, 2022.

Communities LEAP Pilot Initiative

This U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) pilot [initiative](#) is a technical assistance opportunity that is open to low-income, energy-burdened communities that are also experiencing either direct environmental justice impacts or direct economic impacts from a shift away from historical reliance on fossil fuels. DOE will provide technical assistance services valued at up to \$16M to help communities develop their own community-driven clean energy transition approach. Example projects include planning and investment in energy efficient buildings, clean transportation, enhanced manufacturing, and others. Multi-stakeholder teams are encouraged and may include community-based organizations, local government entities, and local economic

development officials. Expected number of awards: 24-36. The application deadline is December 17, 2021.

EVENTS & TOOLS

Increasing Vaccine Confidence

This [article](#) from the National League of Cities discusses strategies and provides resources to implement community-based strategies to increase vaccine rates.

Creative Placemaking Webinar, November 18, 12:00 PM ET

The Center for Community Progress is presenting a [webinar](#) about tools for creative placemaking. The webinar will include examples of neighborhoods using arts and culture to improve quality of life, tools for using creative placemaking on problem properties, and how to get national exposure for placemaking projects.

Digital Educational Resources Webinar, November 16, 2:00pm EST

Common Sense Media will [discuss](#) their new Early Childhood Toolkit "Managing Media: Young Kids and Screens Workshops for Families with Kids Age 0-8." The toolkit includes a series of workshops for parents and caregivers on topics related to their children's media use.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Using Data to Reduce COVID-19's Impact

The [Black Equity Coalition](#) (BEC) in Pittsburgh successfully used data to advocate for programs and policies to decrease racial disparities in COVID-19 response and created a forum to tackle other health inequities. This [article](#) from the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership discusses their experiences.

Eviction Prevention Tips

Neighborworks America provides a [guide](#) to working with residents individually to understand why they are at risk of losing housing and how to identify resources to help.

GRANTEES IN THE NEWS

Norwalk, CT Opens Final Phase of Choice Neighborhoods Development

[Phase Three of Soundview Landing](#) in Norwalk's Choice Neighborhood opened on September 20, 2021, with Governor Ned Lamont in attendance. Phase Three includes 108 apartments and is the last piece of the Washington Village redevelopment. The entire development includes 273 mixed-income units and replaces each of the 136 former public housing units one for one.

New Park in San Antonio Choice Neighborhood

The [San Antonio Housing Authority](#) won a 2020 Award of Excellence for Project Design for the revitalization of the [Wheatley Courts](#) development, including the construction of

a new public park. The art projects in the park were supported in part by Choice Neighborhoods Critical Community Improvements funding.

Milwaukee Choice Neighborhood Is Recipient of PNC Foundation Funds

A local news site [reports](#) that in a Milwaukee Choice Neighborhood, the PNC Foundation is awarding a \$600,000 grant to support the launch of the Black Business Boost Fund, which is designed to increase opportunities for Black entrepreneurs and business owners. The program will include direct equity investments, technical assistance, credit recovery, incubation, access to co-working space, working capital and strategic, ongoing one-on-one mentoring.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT



Sec. Fudge Visits Cleveland and Philadelphia to Celebrate Choice Neighborhoods' Tenth Anniversary

This year is particularly special for Choice Neighborhoods, marking ten years since the award of the first Choice Neighborhoods grants. Choice Neighborhoods grantees have served over 14,000 HUD-assisted residents, created more than 9,000 mixed-income housing units, and coordinated innovative physical neighborhood improvements. More than \$1.2 billion in Choice Neighborhoods funds have been awarded to date, and Implementation Grantees have already invested an additional \$4.2 billion of additional public and private resources to support neighborhood revitalization. We are tremendously proud of the work that Choice Neighborhoods grantees are leading. To celebrate this program milestone, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge traveled to the cities of Cleveland and Philadelphia to mark the occasion.



Just Getting Started in Cleveland, Ohio

On October 29, HUD Secretary Fudge traveled to Cleveland for a groundbreaking ceremony. HUD awarded the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and City of Cleveland a \$35 million FY 2020 Implementation Grant in May, and the Woodhill Station West groundbreaking represents the first phase of redevelopment. The

Cleveland team has ambitious plans to replace nearly 500 obsolete public housing units with 800 new mixed-income rental units. The plan also calls for a new health clinic, early childhood education center, and retail space on along the neighborhood's commercial corridor. You can [read more about the Cleveland Transformation Plan here.](#)

Coming to a Close in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Earlier in the week, Secretary Fudge traveled to Philadelphia's North Central neighborhood for a ribbon cutting ceremony. The event marked the conclusion of the Choice Neighborhoods grant. Together, the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Housing Authority led the development of 267 new mixed-income rental units. The three development phases were joint RAD / Choice Neighborhoods projects, preserving affordable housing in an increasingly "hot" market. An additional 30 homeownership units are under construction, with several units already sold to families exiting public housing.



HUD awarded the \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods grant in 2014 to revitalize Norris Apartments and the surrounding community. Over the last seven years, the City of Philadelphia has made several strategic investments within the neighborhood. The city supported the transformation of a vacant lot into a state-of-the-art culinary arts training facility and partnered with the region's largest hunger relief organization, Philabundance, to construct the facility and expand the organization's 14-week culinary vocational training program. Other neighborhood activities included four large-scale murals and safety improvements along rail viaducts. Residents were heavily involved in the design of the murals, artist selection, and painting the murals. Another key project was the renovation of the neighborhood recreation center, park and play areas. As a result of Choice Neighborhoods, the renovated center doubled in size, providing expanded programming activities for neighborhood youth.

A hallmark of the grant is the Norris After-School Program, which simultaneously created job opportunities and supported education outcomes. Norris Community Residents Council, Inc. operated an after-school school program, which serves 40 plus students, prior to the grant award. During the grant term, resident leaders expanded the program by partnering with Temple University to provide curriculum, program evaluation, and professional development. [Read more about the innovative partnership between Norris and Temple University here.](#)

Strategic investments have led to greater economic opportunities and a safer neighborhood. Norris Apartments' resident incomes have doubled since the launch of Choice Neighborhoods and violent crimes have decreased by forty-two percent. The Philadelphia North Central Choice Neighborhood demonstrates the powerful role residents can play in shaping the vision of their community and the importance of implementing neighborhood revitalization strategies that mutually reinforce employment, education, and business development outcomes.

For more information on Philadelphia's North Central Choice Neighborhood [watch this video](#), which celebrates the program's completion.

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