



# Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Choice Neighborhoods Appropriations**

The recent FY18 appropriations, enacted on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, allocates \$150 million to the Choice Neighborhoods program, including up to \$5 million for Planning Grants. The appropriation also stipulates that Notice of Funding Availability for Choice Neighborhoods funds should be issued no later than 60 days after the enactment of the appropriations legislation.

### **Upcoming Choice Neighborhoods Position**

The HUD Choice Neighborhoods Office will be seeking a qualified candidate to join our team. Candidates should have experience in either large scale neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing development and/or supportive services. The eventual hire will be expected to conduct grant management and other activities in support of the program. The position will be listed as "Neighborhood and Community Investment Specialist" and is anticipated to be posted in Spring, if not sooner, on <https://www.usajobs.gov/>. Please feel free to share this announcement with potential candidates.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Funding Available for CDFI Collaboratives working to Revitalize Communities**

The JPMorgan Chase Foundation is [soliciting proposals](#) from CDFI collaboratives organized around a shared community development objective to address a documented challenge within their service area or areas, such as reducing blight, increasing affordable housing, and improving access of low income residents to economic opportunity. Successful applicants will be eligible for a three-year grant of up to \$5 million. [Applications](#) are due April 20, 2018.

### **Innovations in Community-Based Crime Reduction Program**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is seeking applications from communities that effectively target and address violent crime issues in distressed, high-crime neighborhoods through collaborative cross-sector approaches that are linked with broader neighborhood development goals. Formerly known as the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program, the [Innovations in Community-Based Crime Reduction Program](#) is expected to award 10 grants of up to \$1,000,000 each. Eligible applicants include local governments and nonprofit organizations. [Applications](#) are due April 30, 2018.

## EVENTS AND TOOLS

### **Webinar on Local Ordinances: The Building Blocks of Code Enforcement**

The Center for Community Progress is hosting a [free webinar](#) on Thursday, April 26 from 12:00 – 1:00pm EST on what makes a code enforcement ordinance equitable, efficient, and effective. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the components of effective and ineffective local code enforcement ordinances and explore examples from other cities of ordinances that work well and those that haven't.

### **Recorded Webinar on Evaluation Tools for Community Engagement**

The Tamarack Institute in Canada has produced a [webinar](#) on tools to evaluate the impact and outcomes of your community engagement efforts. The tools covered include the Outcomes Diary, Community Engagement Scorecards, and Most Significant Change.

### **Recorded Webinar on Data Sharing among Housing and Education Partners**

HUD and the Department of Education hosted a webinar on March 8 on improving student outcomes through data-sharing partnerships between public housing authorities, multifamily housing providers, and school districts. The webinar introduced the [Data Sharing Road Map](#), a new resource from HUD and ED, and explored the potential benefits of a data-driven partnership between housing and education organizations. [Click here](#) to view the recorded webinar.

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### **Play Everywhere Playbook for Building Child-Friendly Spaces Anywhere**

Kaboom, a nonprofit dedicated to building play spaces for children, has released a [playbook](#) for communities to integrate play into their neighborhoods. The playbook includes ideas, design guides and case studies.

## GRANTEES IN THE NEWS

### **Dramatic Reductions in Crime Align with Broader Progress in Cincinnati**

The Avondale Choice Neighborhood in Cincinnati has achieved dramatic reductions in violent crime as highlighted in this [news video and article](#). Along with neighborhood improvements, the sharp decrease has been attributed to a place-based, data-driven policing model called [Place-Based Investigations of Violent Offender Territories](#), or PIVOT. The Avondale community has undergone broad, significant change since the Choice Neighborhoods grant was awarded. Now in their final housing phase, the Choice Neighborhoods grantee, The Community Builders, are constructing a mixed-use development center with 75,000 square feet of neighborhood serving-retail. To keep the community well-informed, the Avondale Choice Team has launched a [website](#) about the commercial center where residents and stakeholders can view progress through [time-lapse photos](#) and connect with [construction job opportunities](#).

### **Early Action Items Show Residents that Change is Coming in Newport News**

This [newspaper article](#), including a video interview with resident leader Yugonda Sample-Jones, shares some of the smaller but visible actions planned in the Newport News Choice Neighborhood. The Early Action Activities scheduled for this Spring will help create momentum while longer-term projects, such as the redevelopment of Ridley Place, are still being planned. Newport News activities include the construction of a boardwalk providing access to and from a nearby beach, a mural, and a co-working space for small business owners.

## SPOTLIGHT: Welcome New 2017 Planning Grantees

On February 27, 2018, HUD [awarded](#) nearly \$5 million in Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant funds to six communities in: Chicago Heights, IL; Cleveland, OH; Huntington, WV; Lewiston, ME; Los Angeles, CA; and Philadelphia, PA. This spotlight features the [six recipients](#) and highlights from each community.

**The Housing Authority of Cook County and the City of Chicago Heights** were awarded a \$350,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant for the Downtown-Eastside neighborhood and the Sunrise Manor development (172 units). While neighborhood vacancy and crime rates are high, recent efforts have begun to increase safety and stabilize home values. The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will allow HACC, the City, the community, and their partners to build upon recent progress and develop a community-driven Transformation Plan.



*Vacant commercial property in the Downtown-Eastside neighborhood*

**The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CHMA)** was awarded a \$350,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant for Cleveland's Woodhill neighborhood and the severely distressed, Woodhill Homes development (487 units). Although Woodhill suffers from high poverty and unemployment, the community also benefits from several nearby anchor institutions and public/private investment of \$113 million over the past 10 years. With this grant, the community will strategically focus reinvestment in the neighborhood, targeting deteriorated places and capitalizing on existing assets.



*One of the Woodhill Homes buildings*

**The City of Huntington, WV and the Huntington Housing Authority** were awarded a \$350,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant for the Fairfield neighborhood and Northcott Court public housing complex (130 units). In April 2017, the City of Huntington, WV was designated as "America's Best Community", thanks in large part to their efforts to transform the distressed Fairfield Neighborhood, which struggles with prevalent opioid abuse and poverty. 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 committed to revitalizing the neighborhood.



*Snapshot of key corridor in Fairfield neighborhood*

**The City of Lewiston, ME and Community Concepts, Inc.** were awarded a \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant for the Downtown/Tree Streets community and the Maple Knoll Development (41 units). The neighborhood struggles with vacant lots, lead poisoning, and failing schools, but also has a highly, resilient community. Responding to a 2005 City plan that would have displaced 850 people by running a four-lane boulevard through the neighborhood's center, residents organized to halt the project. Since then, organized residents

have worked with the City on issues such as code enforcement and lead abatement. With the Choice Neighborhoods grant, the City, Community Concepts Inc., the Healthy Neighborhoods Planning Council (a community-based coalition), and their partners will create a comprehensive neighborhood plan and launch Action Activities to begin transforming Downtown/Tree Streets



*Downtown/Tree Streets neighborhood, with Bates Mill No. 5 (front, left) and 1800's mills (right).  
Source: Lewiston Sun-Journal*

into a vibrant neighborhood.

**The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles** was awarded a \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant for the Barton Hill-Downtown San Pedro neighborhood and the Rancho San Pedro and Extension developments (478 units). While the neighborhood experiences high poverty rates, the neighborhood abuts the waterfront area where the Port of L.A. has invested \$600 million in improvements. With the \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, the community, and their partners will lead a planning process that calls for deep community and stakeholder engagement. 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 Transformation Plan into action.



*Example of recent neighborhood improvement*

**The Philadelphia Housing Authority** was awarded a \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant for the Kingsessing neighborhood and the Bartram Village development (500 units). After the loss of its industrial facilities, the Kingsessing neighborhood



*Former industrial site in the Kingsessing neighborhood*

experienced disinvestment that led to the poverty, unemployment, and vacancy it suffers from today. Despite these challenges, the neighborhood has key assets, including a University of Sciences campus, a healthy commercial corridor, frequent light rail service to Center City, and City plans to repurpose former industrial land into a new Innovation District. The Philadelphia Housing Authority, along with their partners, will create a Transformation Plan that capitalizes on these assets and repositions the neighborhood. The team will use a portion of the Planning and Action Grant funds to support community and economic development activities to jumpstart the neighborhood's revitalization.

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