



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

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[Announcements](#) | [Funding Opportunities](#) | [Events and Tools](#)
[Research and Publications](#) | [Grantees in the News](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choice Neighborhoods Appropriations

The [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019](#), enacted on February 15th, authorizes appropriations to fund the operation of HUD and a number of other Federal agencies through September 30, 2019. The bill appropriates \$150 million to the Choice Neighborhoods program. HUD will issue NOFAs for both Planning Grants and Implementation Grants. The Planning Grants NOFA will be posted this spring, and the Implementation NOFA will be published at a later date. The NOFAs will be posted to grants.gov, and we will also announce their publication to this newsletter mailing list.

Jobs Plus Awards

On February 20th, HUD [awarded](#) \$10.6 million in Jobs Plus Initiative funds to four public housing authorities: Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, CA; Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin, CA; Gainesville Housing Authority, FL; and Lucas Metro Housing Authority, OH. These awards help public housing residents increase their income, move toward self-sufficiency, and connect with employment, education, and financial empowerment services.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Challenge America

The National Endowment for the Arts is making [Challenge America](#) grants available to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Proposals should involve artists or arts professionals and details about the underserved audience using relevant statistics and information. Grants are limited to specific types of projects and are for a fixed amount of \$10,000 requiring a minimum \$10,000 match. The [application](#) deadline is April 11, 2019.

Full-Service Community Schools

The U.S. Department of Education's [Full-Service Community Schools](#) program provides support for the planning and operation of full-service community schools that improve the coordination and effectiveness of services for children and families, particularly for children attending high-poverty schools. Eligible applicants include a consortium of one or more local educational agencies (LEAs) and one or more community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, or public or private entities. The [application](#) deadline is April 15, 2019, and [pre-application webinars](#) will be available throughout the month of March.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Local Housing Solutions

A project of the NYU Furman Center and Abt Associates, LocalHousingSolutions.org provides resources to help cities, towns and counties develop comprehensive and balanced local housing strategies that promote affordability and foster inclusive neighborhoods. To learn more about this online tool, [watch this webinar](#).

MeasureUp: Tools and Resources to Help Make a Case

The Build Healthy Places Network has developed [MeasureUp](#), an online resource to help local programs measure and share their impact on the health of families and communities. The web site includes mapping tools, measurement tools, evidence base, and measurement stories.

Opportunity Funds for Opportunity Zones

Many Choice Neighborhoods are located in census tracts that have been designated as Opportunity Zones. Opportunity Zones offer tax incentives to invest in low-income communities through qualified Opportunity Funds. The [National Council of State Housing Agencies](#) (NCSHA) and [Novogradac](#) have been compiling lists of Opportunity Funds. These lists provide descriptions and contact information for publicly announced funds that have been formed to attract investment in Opportunity Zones.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Exploring Resident Services as a Vehicle for Economic Success

The Urban Institute released [Economic Mobility Services for Affordable Housing Residents: Exploring Resident Services as a Vehicle for Economic Success](#), a new report that identifies services that help low-income individuals and households achieve economic mobility and explores how affordable housing providers offer these services. The report presents findings from profiles of leading organizations.

Supporting Small Businesses to Do Well and Do Good in the 21st Century

PolicyLink has produced [a new report](#) exploring how small businesses are approaching questions about job quality, and how various actors in the business development ecosystem – technical assistance providers, lenders and investors, economic development agencies, business associations, and workforce and labor partners – can help small businesses develop smart and effective strategies to improve job quality.

Family Self-Sufficiency Guidebook

HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency program helps residents increase their earnings and build assets and financial capability. To help practitioners administer successful programs, HUD has produced a [written guidebook and online training](#) based on evidence and promising practices.

GRANTEES IN THE NEWS

Grand Opening of New Grocery Store in Chicago's Woodlawn Neighborhood

A new 48,000-square-foot Jewel-Osco grocery store opened in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood, eliminating a food desert that had not seen a full-service grocery store in over 40 years. The store has created more than 200 new jobs, employing residents of Woodlawn and the surrounding South Side who were recruited by Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc. (POAH) and Jewel-Osco as part of a 12-month workforce development program at the Woodlawn

Resource Center. According to a news [article](#), the opening of the grocery store is a major milestone among the many new developments fueled by the \$30.5 million HUD Choice Neighborhoods Grant awarded to POAH and the City of Chicago in 2011. POAH's president and CEO [said](#) "We're proud to have worked with the City of Chicago and all of our neighborhood partners to turn a \$30.5 million [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] grant into more than \$410 million of public and private investments for new housing and businesses." [Watch a news video](#) of the grand opening.



The 48,000-square-foot Jewel-Osco grocery store opened on March 7, 2019 in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood. The store created over 200 jobs filled by residents of the community.

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