



# Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

Issue 13 • April 2013

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Choice Neighborhoods Grantee wins Smart Growth Award

Congratulations to our Planning Grantee in Jersey City, NJ! The Montgomery Corridor Choice Neighborhoods plan has been awarded a 2013 Smart Growth America award by New Jersey Future in the community-driven affordable housing plan category. Winners for this award are selected through a statewide public nomination process by an independent jury of professional developers, architects, planners and redevelopment experts. [Click here](#) to view the complete list of winners.

### Video Challenge: Teens Address a Health Issue



Grantees interested in opportunities for engaging youth in their Choice Neighborhood might be interested in participating in the video challenge recently announced by the National 4-H Council (4-H). 4-H is seeking 90-second video submissions from teens (individuals or groups) commenting on how they can address a health challenge in their community. The winner will receive national recognition to be determined by the contest sponsor; \$1,000; and the sponsoring organization will receive \$2,500 for their youth program or for a classroom. Videos are due by May 3,

2013. [Click here](#) for more information.

## **Symposium: Engaging Customers and Community through Social Technology**

The NeighborWorks Training Institute will be holding a symposium on *Engaging Customers and Community through Social Technology* on May 8, 2013 in Portland, OR. Participants will learn how social technology innovations can enhance their work as well as how to measure the impact and effectiveness of their social technology strategy. [Click here](#) for more information.

## **Father's Day 2013**

If you are a housing authority and haven't already registered for Father's Day 2013, you can do so by going to [www.hud.gov/fathersday2013](http://www.hud.gov/fathersday2013) and clicking on the yellow and orange "Register Now!" icon at the top right of our website. Your early registration not only assures HUD of your commitment to strengthening fathers and families, but also recognizes your housing authority's participation. For any questions or comments, please contact Sandy Norcom by email at [Sandra.Norcom@hud.gov](mailto:Sandra.Norcom@hud.gov) or phone at 202.402.4644.

## **Planned Sequestration Days for HUD**

Starting in May 2013, HUD will have seven furlough days where the Department will be completely shut down. HUD furlough days are: May 24, June 14, July 5, July 22, August 2, August 16, and August 30. For information on how your work might be affected by the furlough days, please read "[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on Sequestration Impacts.](#)"



## **RESOURCES AND INFORMATION**

### **Choice Neighborhoods Technical Assistance Webinar #2: Local Government as a Partner in Choice Neighborhoods**

The second webinar in the Choice Neighborhoods Technical Assistance Webinar Series was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013. The webinar focused on strategies to engage local government as a partner in Choice Neighborhoods. Representatives from the 2010 Planning grantee in Shreveport, LA presented on their accomplishments followed by examples of best practices across the country

from Choice Neighborhoods Director, Mindy Turbov and former CEO of Living Cities, Reese Fayde. Please check the Choice TA website soon to watch the recorded version.

### **Economic and Community Development Outcomes of Healthy Food Retail**

PolicyLink has published research on the actual and projected economic impacts of healthy food retail. The paper examines innovations in food retailing, distribution, and production. Topics include financing incentives for new or upgraded full-service grocery stores, corner store and bodega conversions, farmers' markets, and urban agriculture. To access the article, please [click here](#).

### **Guidance Document on Collecting Data and Reporting Results**

The Urban Institute has developed a comprehensive guidance document of recommendations for data collection and reporting strategies for Promise Neighborhoods. Although created primarily for Promise Neighborhoods, the suggested methods for collecting and tracking neighborhood program implementation data may also apply to Choice Neighborhoods work. [Click here](#) to access the document.

### **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design**

The International Crime Free Multi-Housing Program offers a certification in crime prevention that has been implemented in many cities. The standards for certification can be implemented in existing developments or incorporated into the plan for new developments. The three-phase plan involves resident engagement and must be implemented in collaboration with the local police department. [Click here](#) for more information or [here](#) to see an example of how the City of Jacksonville has successfully adopted the program.

### **Healthy Food Access Initiative**

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Treasury, and Health and Human Services that has awarded nearly \$500 million in New Market Tax Credits to community development organizations to support a diversity of food access projects in underserved communities. Information about HFFI and for resources such as webinars and handbooks useful for strategizing ways to provide healthy food to low-income and underserved populations can be found at the Healthy Food Access Portal launched by PolicyLink, The Food Trust, and The Reinvestment Fund. [Click here](#) to access the portal.

**Do you have a Technical Assistance (TA) Question, Request, or Suggestion?**

**Grantees with TA questions or requests, or a suggestion for an upcoming TA activity, are invited to submit them to BCT and HUD at [hud.gov/choiceta](http://hud.gov/choiceta).**



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Fair Housing Initiatives Program**

Through its Fair Housing Initiatives Program, HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity has made funding available to increase compliance of the Fair Housing Act. There are three initiatives being funded in Fiscal Year 2013: Private Enforcement, Education and Outreach, and the Fair Housing Organization. Applications are due on June 11, 2013. Please note: full-year FY 2013 funding has not been appropriated for the program; if, or when, funds are allocated, HUD will issue a technical correction to the Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) that will identify the amount of funds available. [Click here](#) for information.

### **Assets for Independence Grant**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Community Services is seeking applications for the Assets for Independence Demonstration Project. Grant recipients will be expected to demonstrate the use and impact of Individual Development Accounts as a viable strategy for individuals and families with low incomes to become more economically self-sufficient for the long term. ACF has made up to \$15 million available for approximately 50 grantees. Applications are due on May 24, 2013. [Click here](#) to read the announcement and [here](#) for helpful resources such as webinars on how to prepare a successful application.

### **School Turnaround AmeriCorps Initiative**

The School Turnaround AmeriCorps initiative is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the U.S. Department of Education (DoE). AmeriCorps members will be placed in persistently underachieving schools across the country and participating organizations will receive supplemental grant funding. CNCS and DoE expect to make \$5 million available for the grant competition; the actual level of funding has yet to be determined. Annual grant awards, however, are expected to be between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 for cost reimbursement and \$16,000 and \$80,000 for education award fixed amount grants. Applications are due April 23, 2013. [Click here](#) to view the funding announcement.

## Investing in Innovation Grants

The U.S. Department of Education has announced the start of the \$150 million 2013 “Investing in Innovation (i3)” grant competition. The goal of the i3 program is to promote innovative educational programs that have a demonstrable impact on improving student achievement, closing achievement gaps, increasing high school graduation rates, and other education goals. The grant is open to local education agencies (LEA) or nonprofit organizations partnering with an LEA or a consortium of schools. There are three types of grants available: Development, Validation, and Scale-up. The i3 Development application was released on March 27, 2013. The Validation and Scale-up application period opens on April 29, 2013. For more information on application notices, due dates, and for the Department of Education’s Forecast of Funding Opportunities for FY 2013, please [click here](#).

**Please give us your feedback!**

**We work diligently to make this e-newsletter relevant to your work. Please submit Grantee feature articles, constructive feedback, story ideas, and funding announcements to: [choicetaenewsletter@bctpartners.com](mailto:choicetaenewsletter@bctpartners.com).**



## NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE CORNER

### UNCA Neighborhood Revitalization Conference

The United Neighborhood Centers of America (UNCA), in partnership with the Alliance for Children and Families, will be holding their annual Neighborhood Revitalization Conference on June 27-28, 2013 in Washington, DC. All Choice Neighborhoods grantees are invited to attend. Government officials, community practitioners, and other stakeholders will be exploring neighborhood revitalization efforts in communities across the country. [Click here](#) to register and to view the full conference schedule. Please direct any questions related to the UNCA Neighborhood Revitalization Conference to [info@unca.org](mailto:info@unca.org) or 414-359-6576.

## **Save the Date: Choice Neighborhoods Grantee Forum**

HUD will host a full-day forum and networking session for Choice Neighborhoods grantees in Washington, DC, on June 26, 2013, the day before the start of the UNCA Neighborhood Revitalization Conference. Space at the Grantee Forum is limited to three people from each local team—additional participants will be waitlisted. You will be receiving more information about the Choice Neighborhoods Grantee Forum soon. In the meantime, please contact Jessica Rosenberg at [Jessica.l.rosenberg@hud.gov](mailto:Jessica.l.rosenberg@hud.gov) with questions.



## **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

### **“Do Foreclosures Cause Crime?”**

New York University’s Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy has released a policy brief on their research into the effect that foreclosures have on neighborhood crime. Using New York City crime and foreclosure data, the brief offers evidence that foreclosure triggers an increase in violent crime, public order crime, and total crime in the neighborhoods where they occur. The report proposes strategies to address the crimes endemic to those areas. [Click here](#) to access the report.

### **Social Innovation Financing**

In their online magazine, *The Edge*, HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research discusses social innovation financing (SIF) as a strategy to improve the delivery of social services to at-risk individuals while saving money. The article reviews the use of SIF in Massachusetts to fund programs for chronically homeless individuals as well as those released from the juvenile justice system. SIF originated in the United Kingdom in 2010 and uses multiyear financing by private investors, rather than annual government appropriations, to fund social services, which provides more program security and stability. [Click here](#) to read the article and learn more about SIF.

### **Case Study of HUD’s Green Refinance Plus Program**

*The Edge* also highlighted how the Green Refinance Plus Program (GRPP) was used to transform one affordable housing development in Santa Ana, California. GRPP was launched in 2011 to allow owners of existing affordable rental housing to refinance their mortgages to include funding for energy-and water-saving upgrades and other needed property renovations. HUD and Fannie Mae

share the risk on the loans; they refinance existing rent-restricted properties while allowing owners to make energy-saving enhancements to their properties. Read the [article](#) or [click here](#) for more information on GRPP.

### **Mixed-Income Communities and Resident Experiences: Emerging Research**

In a webcast titled “Dynamics of Mixed-Income Communities” held at HUD Headquarters on March 20, 2013, HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary Dominique Blom moderated a panel of practitioners and academics as they discussed efforts to build mixed-income communities. Mixed-income housing became a federal priority in 1993 with the authorization of the HOPE VI program. Through the program, federal, local, and private programs began using mixed-income housing to encourage social mobility and avoid concentrating affordable housing in low-income neighborhoods. Other discussion topics included the pace of neighborhood change, target percentages for achieving a mixed-income community, shared amenities, and the physical design of market-rate and affordable housing. View [the webcast here](#).

### **Lessons Learned from the Chicago Housing Authority’s Plan for Transformation**

The Urban Institute recently released a series of briefs summarizing ten years of research on the Chicago Housing Authority’s Plan for Transformation, including one brief that describes the experience of former public housing residents. Residents that received intensive case management and supportive services had better health outcomes and higher rates of employment. However, some residents struggled with extremely high rates of debilitating chronic illnesses that prevent them from finding full-time employment and many children suffered ongoing effects of growing up with chronic violence. [Click here](#) to read the report.