



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant NOFA Released

On March 31, HUD published the FY2016 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The funding announcement makes approximately \$120 million available for awards. The NOFA and full application package are now available on www.grants.gov. Information will also be available at www.hud.gov/cn shortly. With awards of up to \$30 million, Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants help communities transform neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing and by and leveraging and investing in well-functioning services, high quality public schools and education programs, high quality early learning programs and services, crime prevention strategies, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs. Applications are due on June 28, 2016. Any questions regarding the NOFA must be directed to choiceneighborhoods@hud.gov.

Choice Neighborhoods Grantee Conference Materials Posted

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2016 Choice Neighborhoods Grantee Conference! The 2016 conference included featured speakers, in-depth deep dive and strategy sessions, as well as promising practice workshops on community engagement, financing tools, strategies for stabilizing distressed and vacant properties, enhancing community safety, and improving resident outcomes. Three hundred people attended, including representatives from Implementation Grants and FY13 and FY14 Planning Grants. [Presentations and materials](#) from the featured speakers and Deep Dive & Strategy Sessions are now available. Materials from the Promising Practice Sessions will be posted soon.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding Announced for FY16 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) recently [announced](#) funding for the FY16 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Implementation Grants and Planning/Implementation Grants. Grants will be awarded to community-oriented strategies that address targeted crime

issues in a neighborhood. BJA is expected to award 10 grants of up to \$1,000,000. Choice Neighborhoods in high crime areas are strongly encouraged to apply. The application closing date is May 12. To apply, click [here](#).

Funding for Healthy Food Financing Initiative Projects

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will award up to \$9.5 million in Community Economic Development discretionary grant funds to Community Development Corporations for community-based efforts to improve the economic and physical health of people in areas designated as food deserts. The program will provide technical and financial assistance for healthy food ventures designed to: (1) improve access to, and purchase and consumption of healthy, affordable foods; and (2) address the economic needs of individuals and families with low-income through the creation of employment and business opportunities in low-income communities. Bonus points are offered for alignment with the Choice Neighborhoods program. Applications are due by April 27. For more information, click [here](#).

Funding for Community Economic Development Projects

Through the Community and Economic Development program, the Administration for Children and Families will provide up to \$17.7 million in grants (\$800,000 maximum per project) to Community Development Corporations for projects designed to address the economic needs of individuals and families with low-incomes through the creation of employment and business opportunities. The objective of the program is to support businesses that develop new products, services, and other commercial activities that result in the creation of new positions for individuals with low-incomes. Bonus points are offered for alignment with the Choice Neighborhoods program. Applications are due by April 27. For more information, click [here](#).

Asset for Independence (AFI) Demonstration Grants

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has [announced](#) the availability of \$13.5 million for a new round of Assets for Independence (AFI) Demonstration Grants. AFI enables grantees to help low-income participants invest in Individual Development Accounts. AFI grants also assist participants in obtaining the skills and information necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Thirty-five grants are available ranging from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000. Bonus points are offered for alignment with the Choice Neighborhoods program. The application deadline is May 13. A [recorded webinar](#) shows how other initiatives, such as Promise Zones, have leveraged the AFI program. Also, information about resources, trainings, and other assistance for potential applicants is posted at the [AFI Resource Center](#).

EVENTS AND TOOLS

USDA Summer Meals Activity Toolkit

USDA has released a new kit that includes 30 games and activities to use at summer meal sites. The toolkit is available in English & Spanish, [here](#).

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