



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FY 2017 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant NOFA Released

The NOFA for the FY17 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants is posted on [Grants.gov](#). Applications are due on **Monday, August 28**. This NOFA makes available up to \$5,000,000 for Planning Grants, including Planning and Action Grants. Planning Grants are two-year grants that assist communities with severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing in developing a successful neighborhood transformation plan and building the support necessary for that plan to be successfully implemented. Planning and Action Grants are three and a half year planning grants that pair planning with action. Under these grants, the planning process activities would take place during the first 24 months of the grant period. The planning process will identify Action Activities that will be carried out during the latter portion of the grant period. Action Activities must build upon the planning for the target housing and neighborhood. Potential applicants should download the NOFA and related forms from the [Grants.gov](#) website. Questions can be sent to ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov.

FY 2017 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Funding Information

HUD [posted](#) information, including publication timelines, for the forthcoming FY17 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant NOFA. Anticipated allocation is \$132 million for Implementation Grants. HUD expects to publish the NOFA for Implementation Grants in late summer.

Promise Neighborhoods Grant to Build Cradle-to-Career Educational Pipelines

The Department of Education recently issued a [notice](#) announcing 2017 Promise Neighborhoods funding. Funding supports collaborations that significantly improve academic outcomes of children living in distressed communities. Notice of Intent to Apply is due August 21, 2017. Pre-applications webinars will be held, check [here](#) for more information. Final [applications](#) due September 5, 2017.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Resources for Funding Opportunities

The following websites regularly post funding opportunities, including regional resources. Grantees may wish to periodically check these links for relevant postings:

- www.grants.gov – Federal funding opportunities
- <http://www.cof.org/organization-type/regional-associations> - Regional philanthropy
- <http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/> - News about national and local philanthropy
- <http://grantspace.org> – Fundraising tools and support
- <http://www.fundersnetwork.org/> - Funder network for smart growth and livable communities that regularly announces funding opportunities for place based sustainable community development projects.
- <http://www.nfg.org/> - Membership association of neighborhood-level grantmaking institutions
- <http://www.greenfunders.org/> - Funder network for grant-makers on environment and conservation issues
- www.edfunders.org – Funder network for grant-makers for education

Funding for Programming to Support Grieving Children

The [National Alliance for Grieving Children](#) is accepting applications from local child bereavement organizations for programs that bring grief support services to youth from ethnically diverse or low-income communities not served by existing bereavement programs. Grants up to \$100,000 are available to nonprofit organizations. [Applications](#) are due August 7, 2017.

TD Bank Housing for Everyone Grant Program

The TD Charitable Foundation is accepting applications for its annual Housing for Everyone grant competition. This year's theme is housing for Single Parent Families that has access to healthcare, schools, jobs and essential services. Twenty-five grants for \$125,000 will be awarded to affordable housing focused non-profits within TD Bank's footprint. [Applications](#) are due September 1, 2017 at 4:00pm ET.

Santander Bank Grant Program for New England Neighborhoods

Santander Bank offers grants to non-profits working in the [communities](#) where their customers and colleagues live and work. Grants support programs that serve low-to-moderate income households in three focus areas – affordable housing, financial education, and economic development and neighborhood revitalization. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. The next deadline to [apply](#) is September 8, 2017.

Our Town Grant Program for Placemaking

The National Endowment for the Arts is accepting applications for Our Town, a grant program supporting placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places. This funding supports local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for existing residents, increase creative activity, and create or preserve a distinct sense of place. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000. [Applications](#) are due September 11, 2017.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

NeighborWorks Training Institute

On August 14 – 18, NeighborWorks will host their annual [Training Institute](#) in Philadelphia, PA on creating opportunities for financial inclusion and economic empowerment. Courses on affordable housing, asset management, community and

neighborhood revitalization, community economic development, community engagement, construction and rehab, home-buyer counseling, and management will be offered. On-site registration is accepted for courses with open seats. The full course list is available [here](#).

CDFIs Invest Conference

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) offer financial resources for neighborhood revitalization. The Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) Conference in Washington, DC on September 26-28, 2017 will share best practices, learnings from the field and networking opportunities. Discounted [registration](#) is available for registrants until August 25.

Community Tool Box

This [website](#) offers a resource library and step-by-step guidance in community-building skills, such as communications, leadership, designing community interventions, cultural competency, evaluation and other topics. The site allows practitioners to connect for peer-learning.

Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Data Tools and Video Reports

The Federal Reserve maintains a [list of tools](#) for practitioners related to community development and neighborhood stabilization. These resources can help practitioners better understand the trends and dynamics of their local communities.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Inclusive Development for Thriving Communities

The Neighborhood Funders Group released a [new report](#) focused on solutions and funding strategies to address displacement in strong market neighborhoods, with a special focus on community-driven development and community ownership of housing.

Library-School Partnerships Closing the Opportunity Gaps

The Urban Libraries Council (ULC) convened a meeting of library, education, nonprofit and government to tackle the education achievement gap. The committee produced a report and action guide, [Public Partners for Early Literacy: Library-School Partnerships Closing the Opportunity Gaps](#), which highlights the ideas and best practices of top experts on forming strategic public partnerships to address the early literacy opportunity gaps so many people, particularly low-income people, struggle with.

Best Practices to Green Industrial Neighborhoods

The Center for Neighborhood Technology released a paper on [Industrial EcoDistricts](#) on how Industrial areas can be made greener and more livable for residents who live and work in them. This Action Guide breaks down district-scale interventions that readers can easily understand "What it is, Why do it?, and What does it Cost?".

SPOTLIGHT

Seattle's Cradle-to-College Educational Collaboration

The Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) received Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants in FY2010/11 and FY2012 for a total of \$30 million for the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace and the surrounding neighborhood. The Transformation Plan includes redevelopment of 561 public housing units into approximately 2,500 mixed-income housing units along with retail, educational facilities, health services, urban agriculture, and new transportation infrastructure. However, special proximity to opportunity does not necessarily lead to improved quality of life for residents until educational outcomes are improved for children in the community. To further this goal, SHA partnered with Seattle University to organize an education collaboration inspired by the [Harlem Children's Zone](#), with Seattle Public Schools and educational nonprofits as key partners. The coalition strives to provide a cradle-to-college educational pipeline, and was featured in a [Promising Practices Guide](#) in 2014.

Seattle University serves as the backbone organization for a collaborative effort based on the ['Collective Impact'](#) model. Other key partners include the four target schools where Yesler children attend and several educational nonprofits. An important aspect of the Collective Impact model is that partners agree to share data and to track aligned metrics. By working collaboratively, supportive services for students are better organized, and it is easier to identify gaps where additional services are needed.



Figure 1: After-school program for elementary school students.

For example, in the 2015-2016 school year, progress was made in several areas, but the high school drop-out rate was still higher than expected. Initially the plan was to provide college prep programming to high school students, but after further investigation it became clear that those services were already available. The gap identified was actually for mental health services. A number of the students suffered experiences of violence and trauma, and needed emotional and behavioral supportive services. The high school has since hired an in-school mental health professional to provide therapeutic health services to students.

During the 2015-16 school year, the collaborative tracked multiple academic indicators for Yesler youth. They found that a couple of cohorts are experiencing significant

improvements in attendance. In addition, Kindergarten students showed improvements in



Figure 2: Digital literacy for elementary school students.

most of the Kindergarten Readiness Indicators. The percent of kids ready in all 6 domains of Kindergarten Readiness Indicators improved from 20% at baseline to 56% in 2015-2016 SY. On the other hand, proficiency in math and English language arts showed mixed trends. The Collaborative plans to continue to use data to encourage deeper partnership with parents and community partners.

Kent Koth of Seattle University recommends

other Choice Neighborhoods establish similar collaborations to help increase educational outcomes for youth living in public housing. He emphasized that collaborations require organizations to build relationships at multiple levels of the organization. Revisiting the participants involved on a regular basis helps to account for shifting capacity and allows the coalition to be adaptive as new information is revealed. Lastly, building trust is critical to develop a common vision and maintain momentum forward.

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