



Grantee Highlight: **CAP TULSA, OK** *By Courtney Chadney*

In 2011, Community Action Project (CAP) Tulsa became the first national entity to be awarded both Choice and Promise planning grants in one neighborhood under the same organization. In that same year, CAP was also awarded Promise planning funds for another neighborhood in the same city. However, the journey for both these communities did not begin overnight, nor was it the result of the sole effort of only

one organization. Both Eugene Field and Kendall-Whittier, although different in many aspects, were ripe for neighborhood revitalization before the opportunity for CAP to apply for funding was presented.

These two Tulsa neighborhoods had already gained momentum for change with their innovative early childhood centers, strong elementary schools, and enthusiastic community efforts. In Eugene Field, a new elementary school replacing a dilapidated structure opened its doors and became a resource hub for the surrounding neighborhood including a food pantry, medical clinic and family advocacy center. CAP Tulsa also built a new early childhood education center adjacent to the school and acquired an affordable housing

complex, Brightwaters, which has been a focus of Choice planning efforts. A local church sponsored the creation of a small nonprofit grocery store and space for a mobile health clinic. In Kendall-Whittier, change began with a small area plan which ultimately resulted in the addition of a post office, library, new school and new community health clinic for the neighborhood.

Slowly but surely, other funders and partners in Tulsa saw the potential and need in these neighborhoods and began surrounding them with community support. Two of the most significant local funders were the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) and United Way; both strong supporters of CAP Tulsa. With CAP Tulsa's focus on early childhood *(continued on next page)*

(continued from pg. 1) education and outreach to the families they serve with neighborhood place-based strategies, it made sense that when opportunities for federal funding became available CAP would apply. CAP pitched the idea of Choice and Promise to GKFF and the United Way, and chose neighborhoods where the potential seemed the greatest. Hence, the application process began for both Eugene Field and Kendall-Whittier. Tulsa Public Schools, neighborhood medical clinics, local universities, and other organizations already partnering in local efforts, quickly joined CAP in order to devise a strategy that would win these areas both Promise and Choice funding.

Announcements

Second Choice Neighborhoods Technical Assistance Webinar April 1st

On Monday, April 1, 2013 from 2:30-3:30 pm (ET) HUD, BCT Partners, and the Center for the Study of Social Policy will be holding the second session in the Choice Neighborhoods Technical Assistance webinar series. The webinar series is available to all Choice Neighborhoods grantees and their partners. The series offers relevant information on planning and executing comprehensive neighborhood transformation. This second webinar in the series will focus on local government as a partner in Choice Neighborhoods and highlight the neighborhood revitalization activities in Shreveport, LA (a 2010 Planning grantee). In addition, there will be an overview of the different kinds of technical assistance available to all grantees. At the conclusion of the webinar, through the webinar satisfaction survey, participants will have an opportunity to give feedback on the specific issues and challenges they would like addressed within the webinar series. Please click [here](#) to access the registration page for the webinar. Once you have accessed the page, click on “Attend an Event”, Site Events to register. In the interim, to see and hear more about Shreveport’s neighborhood transformation check out this [video clip](#). If you have questions about city involvement please post them at the TA website: hud.gov/choiceta

Learning from Your Peers: A Conversation about Neighborhood and Stakeholder Engagement with a 2010 Planning Grantee Webinar Recap

On February 4, HUD, BCT Partners, and the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) held the first webinar in the Choice Neighborhoods Technical Assistance Webinar Series. The 60 minute webinar focused on the neighborhood transformation plan for Mt. Vernon Manor/We Are Mantua (WAM) in Philadelphia, PA. Mt. Vernon Manor is a 2010 Planning grantee that has been particularly adept in their efforts to engage community. Mt. Vernon Manor hired an experienced community engagement specialist and used a four to five month task force planning process involving residents, stakeholders, and project partners to identify problems and potential solutions. The subsequent creation of the Mantua Civic Association, McMichael Community Home School Association, and a Youth Advisory Committee allowed residents to actively work on behalf of their neighborhood as WAM continued to identify funding streams to support the implementation of their plan. In addition to these efforts, WAM was awarded a Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation grant in October 2012 and appointed several resident leaders to a steering committee to work with local law enforcement officials in developing a strategic plan targeting crime and safety issues. HUD, BCT, and CSSP would like to thank Claudia Bitran (Planning Coordinator), Donna Griffin (Community Engagement Specialist), and Michael Thorpe (Board Chair) for participating in the webinar series and sharing some of the lessons they have learned as a Choice Neighborhoods Planning grantee. To view the webinar and download materials, click [here](#).

Rental Assistance Demonstration

HUD recently officially launched the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) as an innovative strategy to preserve tens of thousands of public and HUD-assisted housing units. RAD allows public housing agencies and other eligible entities to convert their current assistance to long-term Section 8 contracts. These contracts will allow owners to leverage additional debt and equity to address critical capital needs. Congratulations to the following CN Planning Grantees:

- Savannah, GA
- Wilmington, NC
- Wilson, NC
- Cleveland, OH
- Spartanburg, SC

They were among 68 public housing authorities to receive an initial RAD commitment from HUD. Click [here](#) to read the announcement or [here](#) to learn more about RAD.

American Planning Association National Conference

The American Planning Association will be holding its annual national conference on April 13-17, 2013 in Chicago. This five day conference offers educational forums and networking opportunities for attendees. Workshops will cover topics relevant to Choice Neighborhoods grantees such as negotiation, urban design, comprehensive plan standards, environmental planning, and more. Those who register for the full-conference will qualify for deep discounts on the full list of training workshops and also receive access to the PowerPoint presentations recorded during the conference at no additional charge. Click [here](#) to register for the conference and [here](#) to learn more about the list of topics that will be covered at the workshops.

Resources and Information



Course in Creative Project Financing Strategies for Affordable Housing

NeighborWorks America is offering a training and certification in Creative Project Financing Strategies for Affordable Housing. Participants will learn how to strategically combine private loans, public capital funds, various kinds of equity investments, and ongoing subsidies for strong, sustainable projects. The course is faculty-led and includes self-paced online assignments, peer discussion forums, and web conferencing. Click [here](#) for more information on the course as well as potential scholarship opportunities.

Smart Growth Compendium on the Future of Communities

The Smart Growth Network has published a compendium of papers on a range of issues relevant to Choice Neighborhoods activities. Papers included in the compendium focus on predicted community development and sustainability trends over the next 15 years. Topics such as green building, economic development, housing, environmental justice, and schools are discussed. Visit the website [here](#) to download each of the papers or to view other papers and blog posts that might be of interest to you.

Comprehensive Neighborhood Planning in Detroit

The Detroit Works Project (DWP) recently launched a website detailing the evolution of the comprehensive neighborhood plan currently being undertaken in the city. DWP was introduced in 2010 as a process to create a shared, achievable vision for the future that could serve as a guide to improve the physical, social, and economic landscape of the city. The website offers detailed information on virtually every facet of launching a plan for neighborhood revitalization. Concepts such as economic growth, civic engagement, and neighborhoods are discussed. Choice Neighborhoods grantees seeking to enhance their transformation plans or those that may be struggling with a component of their existing plan may find useful tools on the website. Please click [here](#).

Income and Rent Mapping Tool

This Internet-based tool uses U.S. Census 2007-2011 American Community Survey data to allow users to obtain a map of either rent or income information by entering city and state. Click [here](#) to access the tool.

Technical Assistance for Black Male Achievement Programs

The National League of Cities has invited city leaders to apply for a 16-month technical assistance initiative focused on improving education, work and family outcomes for Black men and boys. Choice Neighborhoods grantees seeking additional ways to engage residents or local youth may want to visit the [NLC website](#) for more information. The technical assistance will help city leaders develop a comprehensive local agenda to reduce disparities between Black males and their peers as well as engaging Black male youth in local government and the community.

Housing Mobility Webinar

On April 2nd at 2PM ET the Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) will host a free housing mobility webinar that will last 90 minutes. This webinar will provide step-by-step guidance on how to create a housing mobility program that encourages housing choice and access to higher opportunity neighborhoods. The presenters will include national experts as well as practitioners who can highlight best practices from the field. The PRRAC/Urban Institute toolkit, [Expanding Choice: Practical Strategies for Building a Successful Housing Mobility Program](#), is available online to provide more detailed information on how to develop a housing mobility program. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

Dynamics of Mixed Income Communities Webinar

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research will be holding their Quarterly Update on "Dynamics of Mixed-Income Communities" on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Issues such as expectations for neighborhood change, mixed income percentages, shared amenities, and physical design will be discussed on the webinar. Choice Neighborhoods grantees may be interested in this panel discussion including both academics and practitioners. For more information please click [here](#).



Funding Opportunities

Grants Available to Assist Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has announced two grant competitions that will offer job training, education, and supportive services to formerly incarcerated youths and women. DOL is offering grants of up to \$5 million to organizations operating programs that work with juvenile offenders and at-risk youths in high-poverty, high-crime communities. In addition, the department will award a total of \$12 million to eight organizations providing job training to formerly incarcerated individuals of all ages that leads to industry-recognized credentials. Choice Neighborhoods grantees with existing job training or prisoner re-entry programming may be especially interested in this funding opportunity. Click [here](#) to read the press release and [here](#) to access the grant application.

Infrastructure Financing Options for Transit Oriented Development

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a comprehensive guide of tools and strategies that are available for financing and funding transit oriented development (TOD) infrastructure. This report provides examples of how some communities are using specific tools for individual infrastructure components, as well as strategies for combining and bundling tools to create plans that address construction phasing and market growth over time. Click [here](#) to read the

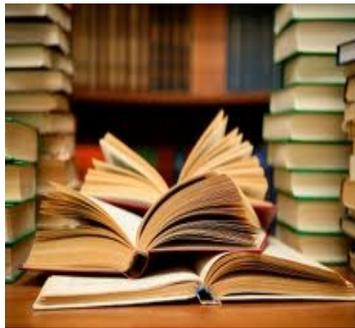
Funding for Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems

The U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration recently announced funding to improve the healthy physical, social, and emotional development during infancy and early childhood at both the state and local level. Applicants have the option to plan or implement strategies in one of three areas: mitigation of toxic stress and trauma in infancy and early childhood; expansion of developmental screenings in early care and education settings; or the improvement of state infant/toddler child care quality initiatives. Grantees with early learning components of their neighborhood transformation plans may want to read the [announcement](#) for additional information.

Technical Assistance Requests

Do you have a question that would benefit from technical assistance? Do you have a suggestion for upcoming technical assistance resources? Submit a TA request at hud.gov/choiceta.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS



Low-Income Asset Building and Homeownership through Individual Development Accounts

In the Fall 2012 edition of *Evidence Matters*, HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research highlights the use of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) as an asset-building strategy for low-income individuals. For more information on the history of IDAs and analyses of several studies on this subject, click [here](#). Grantees might also be interested in a webinar that HUD held in collaboration with the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) in May 2012. The webinar titled, "Incorporating Asset Building into Neighborhood Revitalization Strategies," can be found [here](#). CFED will also soon be posting another webinar on "Housing as an Asset Building Platform" on their [website](#).

Queens NY Promise Neighborhoods Research Study

The Urban Institute published an analysis of qualitative research conducted on a Promise Neighborhood in Queens, New York, focused on a needs assessment survey and planning process for Zone 126, an FY2011 Promise Neighborhoods Planning grantee. Residents of the Astoria Houses public housing development were surveyed to inform the family and child-centered programming of their cradle to career pipeline. [The report](#) contains tips on developing needs assessment surveys and engaging residents around education issues, as well as a copy of the survey instrument and summary of the research methodology and findings.

Please give us your feedback!

We work diligently to make this e-newsletter relevant to your work. Please submit constructive feedback, story ideas, and funding announcements to: choicetaenewsletter@bctpartners.com.

Birth to College Education Model in Chicago: A Case Study

The Chicago Urban Education Institute and the Ounce of Prevention Fund are conducting research on a birth-to-college approach as a tool to close the achievement gap for low-income students. Their latest study focuses on professional learning communities comprised of teachers, administrators, and student's families who work together to improve outcomes for low-income students. The article includes resources such as a written case study, video, teaching notes, and supplemental materials on how to build the infrastructure to launch professional learning communities. For more information about the study click [here](#).

Worst Case Housing Needs 2011

HUD has released the summary report on the worst case housing needs during the 2009-2011 period. The report analyzes demographic groups, household types, and regions. Grantees may find data in the report useful for advocacy or fundraising. Click [here](#) for more information and to download the report.