
Shreveport, Louisiana

Choice Neighborhoods Grantee: Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments and the City of Shreveport

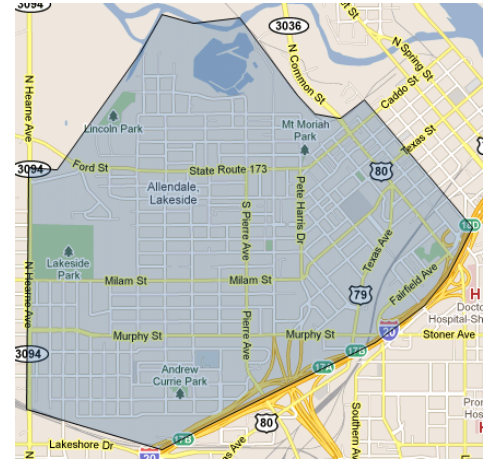
Target Assisted Housing Projects: Jackson Heights and Galilee Majestic Arms

Target Neighborhood: Allendale and Ledbetter Heights

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Award: \$250,000

Key Partners:

Housing Authority of the City of Shreveport
Community Foundation of Northwest Louisiana
Metropolitan Planning Commission
Shreveport Regional Arts Council
Caddo Parish Public Schools
Volunteers of America
Goody Clancy



Project Summary:

The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments has partnered with the City of Shreveport to create a Transformation Plan targeting Allendale and Ledbetter Heights, two inner-city neighborhoods marked by high abandonment, urban decay, severe poverty, high crime, and unemployment. More than 43 percent of the neighborhood's residents are living in poverty and the unemployment rate is almost 14 percent. The neighborhoods are linked together by the former Jackson Heights public housing development, which was demolished in 2006 due to the severity of its physical deterioration. To date, the 270 demolished units from this development have not been replaced. The two neighborhoods, along with the Galilee Majestic Arms development, will be included in the planning process. Galilee Majestic Arms is a deteriorated 75-unit HUD Section 202 building that currently houses 74 elderly and disabled residents. The development suffers from energy and safety code violations and severe floor damage. Also as part of the plan, the Northwest Louisiana of Governments and the City of Shreveport will strengthen connections with neighborhood social service providers and schools and undertake a comprehensive needs assessment to measure housing, neighborhood and socio-economic indicators to identify more areas for improvement.

Recent Accomplishments:

- Scheduled a breakfast with neighborhood faith-based leaders to give an overview of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and engage them in the planning process.
- Surveyed all planning partner organizations to ascertain areas in which data are readily available and areas where more in-depth surveying of residents is necessary.
- Developed a data collection instrument by combining some preexisting, validated surveys with new questions designed to measure resident access to and satisfaction with numerous quality of life indicators.
- Recruited and trained local university students to conduct door-to-door surveys of neighborhood residents.
- Held a kickoff campaign to introduce the Choice Neighborhoods surveying initiative to the community and began surveying efforts.

Next Steps:

- Conduct a Market Analysis for the target neighborhood to determine business and housing market potential.
- Visit Eastlake community in Atlanta, a neighborhood that has undergone successful revitalization.
- Complete door-to-door survey of neighborhood residents.