



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Webcast - Vacant and Abandoned Properties: Turning Liabilities into Assets

As a result of recent foreclosure crisis, Americans are finding vacancy a much more immediate and pervasive problem than it did many years ago. On Thursday, April 10th, 2:00-4:00pm EDT, at the Brooke-Mondale Auditorium in HUD Headquarters, the Office of Policy Development and Research will be hosting an event and panel discussion that will consider vacancy from various perspectives and examine the work that communities are doing to limit or reverse its negative effects. This event will also be webcast live. To register, please click [here](#).

Webinar - Leadership at the Top: Working with State & Local Officials to Prioritize Walking into Transportation Planning

America Walks is hosting the fourth webinar in its six-part All Things Walking series. This webinar will showcase the efforts underway in Tennessee to make walking a major priority in transportation planning. Top officials in the Tennessee transportation community will talk about how walking and walkability are being integrated into transportation planning in Tennessee. Find out why the Tennessee Department of Transportation has won numerous awards for its innovation and dedication to transportation, and learn more about their transportation and integration of walking programs. This webinar will take place on Friday, April 26th, 2:00-3:30pm EDT. For information, click [here](#).

Webinar - Using "the Toolkit" to Improve Youth Case Management Practices

The Toolkit for Frontline Services for Youth, affectionately known as "the Toolkit", has been an essential resource for the public workforce system since 2007. Many are aware of the tool but are unsure about how to effectively apply its content to improve operations. This session will teach you how to use the Toolkit's editable training tools to enhance your team's performance and, ultimately, the outcomes for your young participants. The webinar will take place on Wednesday, April 16th, 2:00-3:30pm EDT. Registration for this webinar is limited and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please register [here](#).



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Choice Neighborhoods Southeast Grantee Regional Convening Recap

On March 20-21, 2014, representatives from thirteen Choice Neighborhoods grantees from the Southeast region attended a convening at the HUD Atlanta Regional Office. The two-day training was led by urban and regional economic growth issues expert, Robert Weissbourd of RW Ventures. The interactive workshop explored how grantees could create comprehensive neighborhood economic plans, using the global, regional and local economic dynamics shaping particular neighborhoods. Grantees were also able to craft their own strategies and initiatives tailored to their own neighborhoods. For more information about the materials discussed, please click [here](#).

Cities Convene to Find Solutions to Combat Child Hunger

Representatives from 15 cities recently participated in a National League of Cities (NLC) project centered on helping cities implement a year-round food program for children in out-of-school time programs in Nashville, Tennessee. The group of city leaders gathered to share best practices for addressing childhood hunger through federal meal programs. The meeting was part of the NLC's Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meals Programs (CHAMPS) initiative and provided in-depth technical assistance and training to help each city develop and implement plans to expand city and community-based afterschool and summer meal programs. To read more about this meeting, click [here](#).

Minneapolis, Minnesota: Preserving History and Affordable Housing in Cedar-Riverside

The Riverside Plaza's recent renovations in Minneapolis have preserved the historic Cedar Square West development – a part of HUD's New Communities Program of the 1960's and 70's. By 2010 the Plaza had fallen into disrepair, requiring costly renovations to remain viable. Originally settled by Scandinavian and German immigrants, Cedar-Riverside continues to remain a haven for immigrants, now mainly from East Africa and East Asia. Due to the recently approved Minnesota Historic Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit, funding became available to finance the required extensive renovations but the site still needed to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places to become eligible. The project used a combination of federal, state, and local funding streams to leverage private investment merged together to promote neighborhood revitalization. To read more about this project, click [here](#).

Map of Extremely Low Income Households and the Availability of Affordable Rental Housing

Over the past five years, the price of rent and the number of renters needing moderately priced housing have both increased, making it extremely difficult for poor households to find affordable housing. For every 100 extremely low-income renter households in the country, there are only

29 affordable and available rental units. Urban Institute's MetroTrends Blog has mapped what they are considering America's rental housing crisis. Click [here](#) to read more about it.

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.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

State Farm 2014 Youth Advisory Board Grant

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board Service-Learning Grant program will grant 4 million dollars to quality, youth-led service learning initiatives. Applying organizations must either be a public K-12, charter, or higher education institution; or a non-profit organization that is able to demonstrate how it plans to impact student achievement in public K-12 schools. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted online by Friday, May 2 at 11:59 p.m. CDT. Complete details and contact information are available [here](#).

Face Forward 2: Intermediary and Community Grants

The Department of Labor – Employment and Train Administration (ETA) is offering the Face Forward 2 - Intermediary and Community grants to organizations to develop programs that address the employment barriers of court-involved youth while helping them develop the employment skills needed to obtain good jobs. Eligible applicants include any community or faith-based organization with 501(c)3 non-profit status, units of state or local government, or any Indian and Native American entity eligible for grants under WIA Section 166 that are located in areas with high-poverty and high-crime rates. The ETA plans to award four intermediary organization grants of \$5 million each and approximately 16 community organization grants of up to \$1.5 million each. Applications must be received no later than May 2 at 4:00 p.m. EDT. For more information about this grant, click [here](#).

Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration Program

HUD is seeking state housing or other appropriate housing agencies to provide project-based rental assistance to develop supportive housing for extremely low-income persons with disabilities. To be eligible, housing agencies must have a formal partnership with the State Health and Human Service agency and the state agency designated to administer or supervise the administration of the State plan for medical assistance. HUD is expecting to select 12 grantees with a total program funding amount of \$120 million. The application deadline date is 11:59:59 p.m. on May 5, 2014. To view this grant opportunity, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunity: Full Service Community Schools Program

The U.S. Department of Education will release its notice inviting applications under the [Full Service Community Schools Program](#) (FSCS) later this spring. The FSCS program encourages coordination of academic, social, and health services through partnerships among (1) public elementary and secondary schools; (2) the schools' local educational agencies (LEAs); and (3) community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other public or private entities.

Updates on timing of the release, application requirements, and pre-application webinars will be made available on the program webpage:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/communityschools/index.html>.



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

INITIATIVE CORNER

Save the Date for the Promise Neighborhoods Conference, June 23 – 25, 2014 in Washington, D.C.

Choice Neighborhoods grantees are invited to this year's Promise Neighborhoods conference, titled "Pipeline to Success: Engaging School, Family, and Community Partners."

The conference is designed to accelerate local results by strengthening your work with schools, families, and community residents. Sessions will be organized into six tracks: partnering with schools and school districts, integrating physical and behavioral health, safety and wellbeing, community stability, family and community engagement, and program administration.

Each participating team is invited to bring at least six people to the conference. Additional information about the conference will be available soon. Please contact Anand Sharma (anand.sharma@cssp.org) at the Center for the Study of Social Policy if you have questions.

The Role of Data in Public Safety Strategies: "Translating Research to Practice and Building Capacity to Use Data, Research, Planning, and Problem-Solving: The Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program"

A recent article published in the Translational Criminology journal describes the importance of research, data, and planning to improving public safety in neighborhoods. The article, "[Translating Research to Practice and Building Capacity to Use Data, Research, Planning, and Problem-Solving: The Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program](#)," also describes the importance of resident engagement and local partnerships to analyzing data and implementing evidence-based strategies:

“The BCJI model also incorporates research knowledge about community trust and collective efficacy by building in time to engage residents in the process... To accomplish this, capacity must be built for data-driven problem solving and a trusting and effective collaboration between the partners, including residents.”

The Department of Justice’s Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program (BCJI) funds evidence-based approaches to increasing public safety with a focus on resident engagement, local partnerships and data analysis in addressing neighborhood-level crime. Read the full article here: <http://cebcp.org/wp-content/TCmagazine/TC6-Spring2014>.

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.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

When Wall Street Buys Main Street: The Implications of Single-Family Rental Bonds for Tenants and Housing Markets

In the past few years, institutional investors have been buying large quantities of single family homes and converting them into rental homes. This past October, an institutional investor created the first triple-A-rated, mortgage-backed security supported by revenue from single-family rental properties, a development that may offer even lower-cost financing to institutional buyers than has been available thus far through bank credit lines. With analysts predicting that this will become a prevailing model, this new type of investment is certain to have an impact on the housing market, communities and tenants. To read the introduction and summary of the report, click [here](#). The full report is available [here](#).

Redefining ‘Renters vs. Owners’ to ‘Neighbors’

The difference between the perceptions of renters and homeowners vary greatly. Some are based in reality while others are not. Many of the misconceptions could be cleared with an easily adaptable concept focused on building up social capital. Programs like NeighborCircles, which is sponsored by Lawrence (MA) CommunityWorks, are seeking to change some of these perceptions through neighbor to neighbor social connections rather than owner to renter connections. Click [here](#) to read more.

The Loan Program That’s Keeping Businesses in Uptown Cincinnati

For various reasons, local businesses are often limited in the assistance they can receive from city and state development agencies. Sometimes money comes in the form of a fixed loan which can be for a larger amount than the business needs. Other times the funding is tangled up in the

red tape of local regulations. One non-profit community development corporation wants to fix these problems. The Uptown Consortium has launched the Development Opportunity Fund, a \$500K small business development program aimed at giving small businesses easier access to better loans. To read more about the program, click [here](#).