



# Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Finalists Announced

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has identified six applicants as finalists to compete for 2013 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grants to transform public and other HUD-assisted housing in target neighborhoods.

The entities below, selected from a pool of 44 applicants, will compete for individual grants of up to \$30 million. For the full announcement, please see the [CN website](#).

Finalists - Lead Applicant/Co-Applicant (if any)
Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk/Norwalk Redevelopment Agency
City of Philadelphia, Office of Housing and Community Development/Philadelphia Housing Authority
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh/City of Pittsburgh
Community Action Project of Tulsa County, Inc.

### Promising Practice Guides – Creating Choice Neighborhoods: Boston’s Critical Community Improvements

Choice Neighborhoods continues to provide innovative funding for projects that provide support for revitalization efforts in neighborhoods that surround targeted public or HUD assisted housing. Critical Community Improvement (CCI) funding is another component of Choice Neighborhoods that allows implementation grantees the opportunity to allocate up to 15 percent of their total grant award toward projects that jumpstart other public and private investments and promote economic development activities. This guide highlights the process that the Boston Choice Neighborhoods grant team used to determine which neighborhood improvement projects to fund using the CCI funds. To read the Boston Promising Practice Guide, click [here](#).

### Save the Date –West Coast Regional Convening

Choice Neighborhoods will be holding a West Coast Regional Convening in May focused on the topic of urban and regional economic development. At the convening, participants will have the opportunity to discuss research and strategies on how to tap into the regional economy as part of a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization effort. Grantees from cities in the Western region are invited to attend a convening on May 14-15, 2014 at the San Francisco HUD Regional Office. Participants will hear from [Robert Weissbourd](#), an expert in drivers of change in neighborhoods and regions. Stay tuned for an invitation email from the Choice Neighborhoods mailbox.

### **Save the Date –Choice Neighborhoods Annual Conference**

Choice Neighborhoods will hold its Annual Conference in June focusing on the topic of transforming neighborhoods through community and civic partnerships. The conference will be held on June 18-19, 2014 at the Sheraton Pentagon City in Arlington, Virginia (just outside of Washington D.C.). Stay tuned for more details.



## **RESOURCES AND INFORMATION**

### **Telling a Purposeful and Powerful Story: Communicating for Maximum Impact**

NeighborWorks America and the Louisville Training Institution are hosting a symposium about new strategies and approaches to community development and nonprofit leadership. NeighborWorks America will be discussing new and effective ways to present an organization's mission, create compelling narratives and statistics and select the right vehicles to promote them. Policymakers, donors, and members of the media will all be in attendance sharing their insights about what does and does not work when attempting to get their attention. Click [here](#) to read more about the event.

### **Chicago, Illinois: Historic Green Rehabilitation at Harvest Commons**

Through historic preservation, the Union Park Hotel in Chicago is now providing 89 single room occupancy (SRO) units for low-income residents. Opening in the spring of 2013, the Art Deco façade was restored and the building was reimagined as Harvest Commons. Harvest Commons is a model of affordable and sustainable housing, featuring a supportive service program that includes case management and counseling services, as well as a teaching kitchen and an urban agricultural program. Click [here](#) to read more about the Harvest Commons and green rehabilitation.

### **Brand New, Age-Appropriate Free or Low Cost Books for Kids**

Having books to read – at home and in the classroom – is the number one predictor of reading success but the reality for millions of children from low-income families is that books are an

unaffordable luxury. The Department of Housing and Urban Development would like to introduce you to First Book to help you get brand new, age-appropriate free or low-cost books for the kids you serve. First Book's free book and low cost opportunities provide school age children living in low income households access to knowledge, increased reading skills, etc., it also offers opportunities to parents to further engage in their child's learning experience. To register for First Book, click [here](#).

For a limited time First Book is offering a special opportunity for HUD service providers and the community organizations they support to receive their choice of \$200 worth of free brand-new books that celebrate Latino culture. This opportunity is first come, first serve and only through March 21<sup>st</sup> (or while funding lasts). For more information, [click here](#).

**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: [choicetanewsletter@bctpartners.com](mailto:choicetanewsletter@bctpartners.com).**



## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Smart Supervision: Reducing Prison Populations, Saving Money, and Creating Safer Communities**

The U.S. Department of Justice is seeking to improve probation and parole success rates through the FY2014 Smart Supervision Program. Eligible applicants include states, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments. Improving probation and parole success rates increases public safety, reduces admissions to prisons and jails, and saves taxpayer dollars. Funds can be used to implement evidence-based supervision strategies and create new strategies to improve outcomes. It is anticipated that there will be up to seven awards granted of \$750,000 each for a 36-month project period. Applications are due April 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

### **Second Chance Act Technology Career Training Grant Program**

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance is requesting applications for funds to be used to establish IT training programs for adults and juveniles in the 6-18 month period prior to being released from prison. Priority will be given to training programs that provide industry-recognized certificates upon completion of the program, provide ongoing training to employers about how to work with trainees, and demonstrate the ability to leverage resources to sustain the proposed project. State and local governments, territories, and federally recognized Native American tribes are eligible to apply. Applications must be received by March 17, 2014. Click [here](#) for more information.

## **Adult Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders Grant Program**

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance has invited state, local, and tribal governments to apply for funding to improve recovery and recidivism outcomes for adults with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders through the provision of appropriate evidence-based services and treatment during and after incarceration. Applications must be received by March 18<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) for more information.

## **Technical Assistance Scholarship Program**

The Center for Community Progress is seeking applications from public and nonprofit entities for their new Technical Assistance Scholarship Program. The purpose of the scholarship is to aid communities in need of technical assistance in order to address large-scale vacancy and abandonment issues in their respective communities. This program provides the opportunity for communities to receive expert technical assistance from Community Progress at a significantly reduced rate. The Center for Community Progress will select up to three applicants, to receive up to 200 hours of direct technical assistance from a team of experts. All applications are due by 12:00pm EDT on Monday, March 24, 2014. For more information click [here](#).



## **NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION**

### **INITIATIVE CORNER**

#### **Safe Streets, Strong Communities Symposium Champions Housing and Community Development as Tools for Safety**

“No housing can succeed if surrounded by unsafe streets,” said Secretary Shaun Donovan at the *Safe Streets, Strong Communities Symposium* sponsored by LISC and the Police Foundation in New York on January 15th. Secretary Donovan was joined by Attorney General Eric Holder, police chiefs and public health leaders in calling for greater collaboration between police, non-profit organizations and residents to make neighborhoods safe and well in the long term. Read about the symposium proceedings [here](#). The partnerships and strategies featured at the symposium are also described in LISC's [Community Safety Resource Center](#), which will soon include materials specific to the U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program. Stay tuned!

#### **Draft Promise Zone Application Materials to be Posted Soon for Public Comment**

As part of the President's initiative to designate 20 high-poverty communities as Promise Zones, HUD will soon be posting the draft application materials that will be used to select the second cohort of Promise Zone designees. Earlier this year, the President announced the first five Promise Zone designees.

The draft application materials will be posted for public comment and will be up for a period of 60 days. The draft materials, as well as additional information about Promise Zones, can be found at [www.hud.gov/promisezone](http://www.hud.gov/promisezone).

### **Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Website Launched**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance and Local Initiatives Support Corporation are pleased to announce the launch of the BCJI website at [www.lisc.org/bcji](http://www.lisc.org/bcji). Please visit to learn about core elements of the program and the work of the 29 cross-sector partnerships funded by BCJI to date. This site will be updated regularly with tools, announcements and resources for practitioners pursuing research-driven, community-oriented and comprehensive efforts to reduce crime and restore vitality in troubled neighborhoods.

### **FY 2014 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Solicitation Released**

DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance has released the Fiscal Year 2014 solicitation for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program, part of the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative. This funding supports research-driven, community-oriented efforts to reduce crime in and around "hot spots", drawing the expertise and resources of diverse cross sector partners. Applications are due May 6th. Download the solicitation [here](#) and learn more about the BCJI program [here](#).

### **Dasani is not Alone: Girls and Distressed Housing**

Last year the *New York Times* documented the life of a young girl named [Dasani](#), growing up in a homeless shelter. Dasani's story is an illustration of the toll that growing up in such conditions has on children. The Urban Institute has repeatedly found that girls face unique risks living in distressed public housing communities. To learn more about this risks click [here](#).

**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](http://hud.gov/choiceta).**



## **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

### **A Detailed Map of the Net Migration Flows for Every U.S. County**

Six percent of the nation's population changes counties in a given year. The Census Bureau has recently released a new map and data from the American Community Survey, averaging migration patterns from 2007 to 2011, allowing researchers to get a full picture of what parts of

the country are population gainers and which areas are losing population. To read this article click [here](#). To use the Census Bureau's Census Flows Mapper tool click [here](#).

### **Understanding the Challenges and Solutions to Aging in Place**

In the latest issue of HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research online magazine, *The Edge*, the population of Americans over the age of 65 is expected to double over the next 40 years and the population of people over the age of 85 is expected to triple. Making these issues more complicated is the fact that most elderly Americans wish to stay in their own homes as they age, or "age in place." The HUD Office of Policy Development and Research recently convened a panel of experts to discuss these demographic changes. Click [here](#) to read the report. To read about Community-Centered Solutions for Aging at Home, click [here](#).

### **Better Solutions for Youth with Mental Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System**

Each year, more than 600,000 youth are placed in juvenile detention centers in America. Close to 70,000 youth live in juvenile correctional facilities on any given day, and the mental health disorder rate is three times higher in the youth in juvenile detention centers than that of youth in the general population. With the right collaborations, it is possible to build systems to help communities improve the way they respond to youth with mental health needs. This paper seeks to encourage and support communities working toward system reform. Click [here](#) to read.