



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter Issue 36 / March 2015

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

New Round of Individual Technical Assistance

HUD will be offering a new round of technical assistance for current Implementation and Planning Grantees. Requests will be due by April 15 for consideration. Grantees are encouraged to work with their partners and HUD team coordinators in defining their request. More information will be sent by email soon.

Choice Neighborhoods FY14 Planning Grantee Convening in DC

On April 14 and 15, FY14 Planning Grantees will convene at HUD Headquarters in Washington, DC to meet other grantees, hear about innovative practices from the field, and learn how to strategically address neighborhood challenges. Grantees are encouraged to bring a diverse group of stakeholders.

Send Your Updated Website Address

All Implementation Grantees and 2010-2012 Planning Grantees are asked to make sure your website address is up to date on the [Choice Neighborhoods website](#). If your link has been updated, please send the new link to choicetanewsletter@bctpartners.com by March 20.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE AND PROMISE ZONES CORNER

Funding Announced for FY15 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) recently [announced](#) funding for the FY15 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Planning and Implementation Grants. Grants will be awarded to community-oriented strategies that address targeted crime issues in a neighborhood. BJA will award up to 15 Planning Grants of up to \$175,000 and up to 3 Implementation Grants of up to \$1,000,000. Choice Neighborhoods in high crime areas are strongly encouraged to apply. The [application](#) closing date is April 20.

Department of Justice Posts Highly Rated Applications

[The Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\)](#) is disclosing former highly rated, but unfunded applications. The goal is to raise awareness about potential projects to improve coordination and collaboration among stakeholders.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Economic Development Assistance Programs for Job Creation

In FY15, the Economic Development Administration will award [competitive grants](#) to support job creation and economic development as a part of regional economic development strategies. Grants are awarded in rounds: cycle 2 applications are due March 12 and cycle 3 applications are due June 12. To apply, [click here](#).

2015 Social Innovation Fund Competition

[The Social Innovation Fund](#) will provide \$40 million in grants to grant making institutions and eligible partnerships to grow innovative solutions to challenges facing low income communities in the areas of health, youth development, and economic opportunities. The deadline is March 17.

National Disaster Resilience Competition

[The National Disaster Resilience Competition](#) is a nearly \$1 billion competition to help communities that have experienced natural disasters rebuild. The application deadline is March 27.

Job Training and Employment Services for Fathers

HHS announced its intent to competitively award demonstration projects that support responsible fatherhood by providing services such as job training and other economic stability services. HHS expects to fund approximately 48 grants of up to \$2 million. The [application](#) deadline is June 4.

Employment Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated Fathers

HHS announced its intent to competitively award cooperative agreements for demonstration projects that support economic self-sufficiency and stability through employment for formerly incarcerated fathers. HHS expects to fund approximately 4 awards of up to \$1,500,000. The [application](#) deadline is June 4.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Neighborhood Stabilization Program: Disposing Difficult Properties Webinar

HUD will feature a Neighborhood Stabilization Program [webinar](#) on disposing difficult properties on March 19.

Intro Food Systems Finance Web Course

Explore how bonds, tax credits, loan programs, foundation grants, and other financing tools can be used to support a local food system in this free two day [webinar](#) from March 25-26.

Project Prioritization: Working on What Matters Most

The University of Wisconsin offers a [simple prioritization tool](#) that provides a way to sort a diverse set of items into an order of importance. Grantees may find this useful when prioritizing strategies.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

A Resource Guide to Revitalizing Neighborhood Retail

This [Urban Collaborators Resource Guide](#) offers practical techniques on how to revitalize neighborhood retail, including how to evaluate the local context, and provides on the ground examples.

Building Successful Collaborations

The Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation's report, [Building Successful Collaborations](#), offers a practical approach to fostering effective collaboration among non-profits and between nonprofits and businesses.

Improving Transportation Connections in Small and Mid- Sized Cities

This [guidebook](#) by the Center for Transit Oriented Development provides a menu of strategies for improving transportation choices for low and moderate income households in small and mid-sized cities.

Employment Interventions for Low Income Non-Custodial Fathers

A [case study](#) from the Urban Institute examines five pilot programs from New York's "Strengthening Families through Stronger Fathers Initiative," aimed at increasing job prospects and removing employment barriers for low-income, non-custodial fathers.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Boston's Quincy Corridor: Making Neighborhood Investments that Count

Boston's strategic use of Choice Neighborhoods' Critical Community Improvement (CCI) dollars is creating jobs and dramatically transforming the landscape of a once blighted area.

Before: Abandoned Factory



In 2011, when the City of Boston secured a Choice Neighborhoods grant, the Quincy Corridor neighborhood was marked by a severely distressed HUD assisted housing development and the adjacent long-abandoned meat factory sitting on a blighted, two-acre lot.

After: Food Production Center



50 food production businesses and create 150 jobs in its first five years of operation, many of them for Quincy Corridor residents. The building lease-up is ahead of schedule at 82% occupancy. As of December 2014, 17 businesses have moved in, creating 71 jobs. Another 20 jobs are anticipated to start within the next month.

Today, that site is marked by something vastly different. The abandoned factory, once an eye sore in the neighborhood, is now a job-generating, food production center. The City, Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, CropCircle Kitchen, and their partners invested \$500,000 of Choice Neighborhoods CCI funding in the effort, leveraging \$13.5 million in public and private funds. The new food production center for small and emerging businesses includes a multi-functional shared commercial kitchen with business training and mentoring. The facility will support over

Quincy Heights Affordable Housing



million HUD Flexible Subsidy Loan, and over \$4 million in other private and public funds. Project construction was recently completed and 99% of the 129 units are already occupied.

Across the street from the food production center, the formerly distressed housing development has been redeveloped into reconfigured, energy-efficient, affordable units, complete with an onsite technology center. \$12.3 million in Choice Neighborhood grant funds were used to attract an additional \$44 million, including more than \$20 million in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit equity, a \$16.9 million FHA-insured Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency Risk Share mortgage, a \$2.8

If you have suggestions for topics or content that you would like to see in upcoming newsletters, please submit those requests to choicetnewsletter@bctpartners.com. Content must be submitted by the 15th of each month to be considered for the upcoming month's publication.