



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

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CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

FY2014 NOFA for Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants Published

HUD has released the FY2014 NOFA for Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants. The NOFA makes approximately \$76 million available for Implementation Grants. Individual grant awards may be for up to a maximum of \$30,000,000 and applications are due on Monday, February 9, 2015. The NOFA and application package are available [here](#). The NOFA document (not the application package) is also available [here](#) on the Choice Neighborhoods website.

Northeast Regional Convening Recap

On October 28-30, 2014, representatives of Choice Neighborhoods grantees from the Northeast region attended a convening at the HUD Boston Regional Office. During the first portion of the convening, Robert Weissbourd of RW Ventures, a nationally-recognized urban and regional economic growth issues expert, led a hands-on, two-day training entitled *Economic Place Making: How to Develop a "Neighborhood Business Plan."* The training curriculum has been developed specifically for Choice Neighborhoods grantees and includes a customized data packet specific to each grantee. Grantees left the event with an economic development strategy for their neighborhood, using the training curriculum to think differently about how to link human capital, land, and other neighborhood assets into the growing sectors of their regional economies.

The second portion of the convening involved an orientation and training session for the newly awarded FY13 Implementation Grants. The new Implementation Grantees also received individual consultation sessions with the trainers to discuss specific projects. Grantees felt the convening was a success. Over ninety percent (90%) of convening survey respondents either "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" that the conference "addressed the economic development challenges in their respective Choice Neighborhood."

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HUD Jobs Plus Pilot Program Develops Locally-Based Approaches to Increase Earnings and Advance Employment Outcomes

The Jobs Plus Pilot Program is a program presented by HUD for the purpose of addressing entrenched poverty among public housing residents by offering targeted developments with various incentives and supports including income disregards for working families, employer linkages, job placement and counseling, educational advancement, and financial counseling.

Total funding for the program is \$24 million and HUD anticipates making approximately 8 awards at a maximum of \$3 million per project. Funding is eligible to public housing authorities that operate one or more public housing developments (as designated for asset management purposes) that meet criteria outline in the NOFA. The deadline to apply is December 17, 2014. For eligibility criteria and more information, [click here](#).

Operation AmeriCorps New Grant Program to Help Tribal & Local Leaders to Solve Community Challenges

Operation AmeriCorps is asking tribal and local leaders to identify a high-priority local challenge that AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps NCCC and/or AmeriCorps VISTA members can holistically address in a relatively short period of time (no more than two years).

Tribal and local governments, including counties, cities, towns, and school districts; and State Service Commissions are eligible. Proposals must be place-based, coordinated with existing community organizations, and with transformational outcomes. The deadline for applications is January 13, 2015. For more information, [click here](#).

The National Endowment for Arts' the Big Read Program to Restore Reading in American Culture

The Big Read is a program from the National Endowment for the Arts that provides organizations with grants and resources to inspire their communities to read. Grantees spark a culture of reading by holding community activities focused on a single book or work of poetry.

Approximately 75 organizations will be selected with a grant awards ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000. Eligible organizations must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; a division of state, local, or tribal government; or a tax-exempt public library located within the United States or its territories; or partnered with a library. The programming dates are from September 1, 2015 – January 28, 2016. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 4:00pm CST. For eligibility criteria and more information, [click here](#).

EVENTS AND TOOLS

HUD Announces Opportunity to Receive Technical Assistance from the National Resource Network

On October 30, 2014, HUD released a Request for Applications that enables city governments to apply for on-the-ground technical assistance from the [National Resource Network](#). The Network brings together national experts to work with cities seeking to increase their economic competitiveness and to reverse population decline, job loss and high rates of poverty. The

Network is expected to provide technical assistance to dozens of eligible cities by 2016. Read the entire press release from HUD [here](#). To submit an application, [click here](#).

National League of Cities' Distribution of Federal Spending Webinar

On December 11, 2014, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm EST, the National League of Cities will be presenting a webinar to examine how federal budget decisions can have different impacts on states and cities. The webinar will also discuss the potential impact of the new Congress on federal spending. To register for this webinar, [click here](#).

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Can Shared Mobility Increase Opportunity for Low-Income Populations?

Programs like bike-share and car-share have the potential to benefit people who are low-income, but do not often reach this population. This report by presented by Living Cities and The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy explores the opportunities and challenges facing shared mobility programs in expanding services to low-income communities. To read the report, [click here](#).

Open Data: The Untapped Resource for Cities

The “City Open Data Policies: Learning by Doing” handbook created by the National League of Cities identifies how cities can take advantage of the opportunities presented by open data initiatives. To read the press release for this handbook [click here](#). To read the handbook [click here](#).

Supportive Housing and the Child Welfare System

Supportive Housing combines affordable housing with intensive wrap around services. This Urban Institute Brief follows five communities who are testing the effectiveness of this intervention with child welfare families. The paper describes the purpose and design of the demonstration and profiles the five program sites. To read the paper [click here](#).

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Philadelphia's Mantua Neighborhood Plan Gains Momentum

The West Philadelphia neighborhood of Mantua—a community formerly known for a poverty rate of over 40%, crime, and distressed housing—is in the midst of tremendous change. In 2010, Mantua was awarded a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, bringing together major players in the neighborhood, such as the People's Emergency Center, Mt. Vernon Manor, LISC, and Drexel University. Out of this process, they formed the Mantua Collaborative and a community-driven transformation plan.

Propelled by their work on the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, these partners have begun paving the way for success. In 2012, Mt. Vernon Manor secured a \$600,000 Byrne Criminal

Justice Innovation Grant from the Department of Justice to prevent and reduce crime. Mantua was also designated by the President as one of five Promise Zones across the country. Drexel University has acquired an abandoned high school and plans to create a mixed-use development and K-8 school for the neighborhood. The Mantua Civic Association, a long desired neighborhood association, has been formed and joined the Mantua Collaborative. The community is now seeking a series of residential and commercial zoning changes that would enable greater home ownership and commercial development, including a potential grocery store. These and other Mantua successes have been featured in a Keystone Edge news article. To read the full article, [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.