



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter Issue 38 / May 2015

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Choice Neighborhoods Performance Measurement Webinar Series

The Choice Neighborhoods office will be holding a series of webinars on performance measurement and management. The series is primarily designed for FY13 & 14 Planning Grantees but other grantees are more than welcome to attend. Invitations will be forthcoming:

- [Partner Contributions to Shared Outcomes – May 19, 3pm](#)
Based on a collective impact framework, the webinar focuses on how to effectively work with partners and choose critical data indicators to establish a common vision, prioritize resources, and make commitments toward shared outcomes.
- [Data Partnerships - June 23, 3pm](#)
This webinar offers strategies for building data-sharing partnerships, including how to engage staff members, develop these partnerships, and create data-sharing agreements.
- [Performance Measurement and Management Systems – July 14, 3pm](#)
The final webinar shares best practices for assessing partners' capacity and system infrastructure for performance management and measurement.

FY14 Planning Grantees Convened in DC

Representatives from the seven newly awarded FY14 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants convened at HUD Headquarters on April 14 and 15. The grantees participated in teams representing a range of partners, including resident leaders, community leaders, local governments, housing authorities, nonprofits, schools, human services, and foundations. They learned about promising practices from Choice Neighborhoods that have been through a robust planning process and strategies to be more intentional and effective in their neighborhood revitalization work. [Click here](#) to see event materials. Conference videos will be posted soon.

New Resource Guide: Designing and Directing Neighborhood Change

Choice Neighborhoods has released a new resource guide developed by neighborhood change expert Michael Schubert is now available. "Designing and Directing Neighborhood Change: How to Be More Intentional and Effective," walks readers through how to embark on building a positive neighborhood image, stabilize the housing market, improve physical conditions and strengthen the social fabric in the neighborhood, using real examples. It also includes a number of worksheets that can help shape more effective strategies for neighborhood change. To access the guide online, [click here](#).

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE AND PROMISE ZONES CORNER

Promise Zone Second Round Designees

On April 28, the Obama Administration designated eight additional communities as Promise Zones. Promise Zones are urban, rural, and tribal communities where the Administration will partner with local leaders to create jobs, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime. The new designees include: Camden, NJ; Hartford, CT; Indianapolis, IN; Minneapolis, MN; Sacramento, CA; St. Louis, MO; Barnwell, SC; and Porcupine, SD. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Asset for Independence (AFI) Demonstration Grants

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced a new demonstration grant competition for non-profits and government agencies to help low-income participants invest in Individual Development Accounts. AFI grants also assist participants in obtaining the skills and information necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Thirty-five, five-year grants are available ranging from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000. AFI applicants collaborating with Choice Neighborhoods and other federal place-based initiative(s) and serving populations located in those areas are eligible for bonus points in the AFI application review. [The application](#) deadline is June 15.

Asset for Independence (AFI) Applicant Webinar

On May 11 at 1pm, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will host a webinar to introduce the 2015 Asset for Independence funding opportunity and share the experience of a grantee implementing a project in their community. The webinar is primarily targeted toward Choice Neighborhoods grantees. [Register here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

YouthBuild Grants

The U.S. Department of Labor is accepting applications for organizations that can manage the provision of education, occupational skills training, and employment services to disadvantaged youth as part of the [YouthBuild program](#). Seventy six grants will be awarded ranging from \$700,000 to \$1,100,000. [The application](#) deadline is June 5.

Grants to Support the Successful Reentry of Adults

The U.S. Department of Justice is providing grants up to \$1,000,000 to fund non-profits to provide mentors and wrap-around services such as housing, employment, and healthcare to adults who have been incarcerated to support their successful reintegration into the community. [The application](#) deadline is June 11.

Grants to Support Neighborhood Planning

Wells Fargo Regional Foundation is providing grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to support direct expenses associated with neighborhood planning such as planning consultants, outreach activities, community meetings, and advisory group development. [The proposal deadline](#) is September 4 and a planning workshop will be held May 21.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

HUD's National Father's Day 2015 Initiative

HUD is hosting its fifth Father's Day Initiative, in which functions held nationwide provide entertainment for children and services targeted to parents. HUD assisted housing programs, such as Public Housing Authorities or Multifamily owners/agents, sponsor events and invite servicing organizations, such as colleges, businesses, agencies, and nonprofits. If you would like to register as a service organization please [click here](#).

Real Estate Development Training

The [Urban Land Institute Real Estate School](#) in Washington DC is offering hands on practical information from basic to advanced elements of real estate development and finance. The course will occur June 1-10 (with some opportunities for online training).

Webinar on How to Build Credit with Rent Reporting

Rebuilding financial credit is an important step toward self-sufficiency. On June 5 at 2pm, HUD and collaborating agencies will host a webinar, entitled "[Rent Reporting for Credit Building](#)", on how to use rent reporting to build credit for low-income families.

National Registry to Help Connect Low Income Residents to Jobs

The [Section 3 National Registry](#) is now available. It is an online searchable database connecting low-income residents to job training, employment, and contract opportunities from organizations that receive certain HUD financial assistance.

2015 Urban Land Institute (ULI) Housing Conference

[ULI 2015 Housing Opportunity Conference](#) will take place July 13-15 in Minneapolis, MN. It will provide the tools, knowledge, and connections for developing affordable, high-quality, sustainable housing that supports broader opportunities for low-income families.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Toolkit for Revitalizing Properties and Neighborhoods

Sponsored by the Enterprise Community Partners, the [Building American Cities Toolkit](#) is a living changing resource that helps practitioners think through strategies, identify specific tools to carry out those strategies, and learn how other communities have used those tools to revitalize land, buildings, and neighborhoods.

Resource on How to Transform Underused Public Spaces

[The Project for Public Spaces \(PPS\)](#) is a web-based central hub connecting people to ideas, expertise, and partners on how to transform places into vibrant, community spaces.

Study Demonstrates Impact of Employment and Financial Services

LISC, with the support of the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, released [a report](#) demonstrating that incomes rose by an impressive 76% for 40,000, low-income participants that took advantage of bundled services focused on employment, income supports, and financial management skills.

Case Study on Developing Housing and Education Partnerships

The Urban Institute has release a [report](#) that describes how housing providers can partner with schools and school districts to address challenges that occur outside of school by analyzing three different communities: Akron, Ohio; New Haven, Connecticut; and Vancouver Washington.

Study Highlights Workforce Fund Prioritization for Low-Income Adults

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) requires priority to be given to “public benefits recipients, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient” when providing career and training services using WIOA Title I Adult funds. However, a [new report](#) from Clasp shows that despite this priority service requirement, less than 50% of adults receiving training under the Workforce Investment Act are low-income.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Changes are beginning to take hold in the West Central Albany neighborhood in Albany, GA. Historically the neighborhood has struggled with challenges of poverty, violent crime, and two deteriorating public housing developments. To address these challenges and revitalize the neighborhood, the Housing Authority of the City of Albany, the City, community members, and representatives of over 50 organizations created a Transformation Plan using a 2010 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant.

With this plan, these partners are starting to develop new mixed-income housing, increase safety, strengthen families, and create a more vibrant neighborhood. As part of their plan to develop 353 mixed-income units, the team has established a Community Housing Development Corporation, and, in partnership with the City, the Housing Authority has acquired land for offsite development. They and their developer plan to apply for Low Income Housing Tax Credits for the first housing phase in 2015.

As a result of the extensive community engagement during the Choice Neighborhoods planning process, Georgia Department of Health was also able to secure the Department of Justice’s Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant to tackle crime in West Central. Additionally, partners, Georgia Tech and the Emory Prevention Research Center, have completed health assessments in the community. The team has also begun efforts to target education and youth development, including the launch of a Parent’s as Teachers program, new after school activities, and teen pregnancy prevention programming.

Another important piece of building a cohesive, vibrant neighborhood has been creating connections between public housing residents and other community residents. Strong progress has been made in bridging this divide, for example through community events, such as the first ever, neighborhood-wide, annual Christmas Luminaries initiative.

The Christmas Luminaries program which started in December, 2011 connects the McIntosh Homes to the surrounding neighborhood.



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