



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter Issue 42 / September 2015

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Performance Measurement Systems: Experiences from Grantees

On September 15 at 1PM, the Choice Neighborhoods office will host a one hour facilitated peer-to-peer exchange, in which Choice Neighborhoods grantees will share their experiences with different performance measurement systems. This is a great opportunity for grantees to ask questions about the pros, and cons of various system options. Please register [here](#).

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE AND PROMISE ZONES CORNER

Interactive Promise Neighborhoods Website is now Live

The US Department of Education is inviting visitors to explore the re-launched Promise Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance Center website. The site offers useful features such as a toolbox filled with webinars, resources, templates, and additional links to materials related to Promise Neighborhoods and cradle-to-career educational pipelines. To visit the Promise Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance Center website click [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Voya Foundation Offers K-12 Education and Financial Literacy Grants

Third quarter 2015 grants are available from the [Voya Foundation](#) to nonprofits, government entities, and other organizations to support their two priority areas: improvements in K-12 education, especially in underserved areas; and financial literacy with a focus on youth and minorities. The [application](#) deadline is September 18.

Funding Available to Improve Employment Outcomes for Public Housing Residents as part of the Jobs Plus Pilot

HUD is expected to offer up to 8 [Jobs Plus Pilot](#) grants ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 to programs that will improve employment outcomes and increase earnings for public housing residents. The purpose of the Job Plus Pilot Program is to develop locally-based, job-driven

approaches to increase earnings and advance employment for residents of public housing. The [application](#) deadline is September 28.

Santander Bank Grants for Low-Income Communities

Santander Bank Foundation is providing grants to enhance quality of life for individuals living in the low- and moderate-income communities they serve. The foundation will award grants to 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations for activities in the areas of: neighborhood revitalization; K-12 education; financial stability for low- and moderate-income individuals; homelessness and affordable housing; or nutrition, hunger and health. Fall [applications](#) are due by September 30.

Regional Innovation Strategies Grants

The Department of Commerce's Regional Innovation Strategies program is offering grants of up to \$500,000 to build public and private capacity to invent, improve, and commercialize new products and services as part of regional innovation strategies. Capacity-building activities may relate to Proof of Concept Centers, Commercialization Centers, or operational support for organizations that provide early-stage funding to startups. The [applications](#) are due by October 5.

Wells Fargo Grants for Neighborhood Planning

Wells Fargo Regional Foundation is providing grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to support 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations' neighborhood planning expenses for certain communities in NJ, DE, and PA. Fall [applications](#) are due by October 23.

Wells Fargo Grants for Neighborhood Implementation

Wells Fargo Regional Foundation is providing grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$750,000 to support 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations' neighborhood implementation expenses for certain communities in NJ, DE, and PA who have completed a comprehensive neighborhood plan. Fall [applications](#) are due by October 23.

State Farm Grants for Education, Training, and Counseling

The State Farm Companies Foundation is providing Good Neighbor Citizenship grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to support: K-12 education through teacher development, service learning, or education reforms/improvements; financial literacy; homeownership and foreclosure prevention counseling; and skills training. 2016 grant [applications](#) are due by October 30.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Webinar on Finance Tools to Redevelop Commercial Properties

On September 16 at 2pm, the Ohio Policy center will host a webinar on the various sources of capital available from the private, public, and non-profit sectors to redevelop commercial properties in distressed neighborhoods. [Click here](#) to register.

Webinar on Incorporating Green Infrastructure into Housing Development

On September 23 at 2 pm, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a webinar on green tools to save money, water, and energy in public housing developments. [Click here](#) to register.

2015 Annual Affordable Housing Conference

The 22nd Housing Washington's national conference on affordable housing will be held October 5-7 in Spokane, Washington. This event will provide a forum for learning, discussion, networking and collaboration for affordable housing professionals. [Click here](#) to register.

Greenbuild 2015 Conference

The Greenbuild 2015 conference for sustainable building will take place on November 18-20 in Washington, DC. The conference will include expert speakers, networking opportunities, showcases, LEED workshops, and tours of green buildings. [Click here](#) to register.

HUD Launches Resource Locator APP

On August 13, [HUD](#) launched the [HUD Resource Locator App](#), which offers real time HUD housing information to people looking to quickly inquire about housing availability, and other housing related questions. The new app is available via [Apple iTunes](#), [Google Play Marketplace](#), and resources.hud.gov.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

How to Manage Neighborhood Change

This [report](#) sponsored by the Surdna Foundation provides a practical framework for how to strengthen a neighborhood's housing market while ensuring that the community's lower-income residents benefit from the neighborhood's revitalization.

Balancing Sustainability and Cost in Affordable Housing Development

In this Urban Land Institute [case study](#) the Rose, a mixed-income apartment project located in Minneapolis, demonstrates how to successfully balance green building requirements with cost efficiency, which can be replicated across the affordable housing industry.

Building Capacity for Better Public Housing Resident Services

This Urban Institute [case study](#) describes opportunities to use housing as a platform for resident services, the challenges to coordinating services effectively in public and assisted housing, and the strategies to ensure that service coordination is evidence-based and supports the best outcomes for residents, housing providers, and communities.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

In Jackson, TN, the Housing Authority, Community Redevelopment Agency, police, Board of Education, community members, and other partners have used a Choice Neighborhoods Planning

Grant to spark change in the Allenton Heights neighborhood. After undertaking a comprehensive needs assessment, visioning, and strategizing, these partners have begun to make their neighborhood plan a reality.



Allenton Heights planning event

To improve education outcomes, the Jackson Madison County Board of Education, the West Tennessee Healthcare, and their partners helped transform the local Jackson Central Merry High School into a Medical Magnet Academy High School. Graduation rates have risen and students now receive training for jobs in the health field. To increase employment and overcome transportation barriers to services, the Jackson Housing Authority dedicated a service coordinator to Allenton Heights residents, and the Tennessee Technology Center launched GED classes at the nearby Salvation Army office.

To increase access to fresh foods, a new grocery store will open in 2015 within walking distance of the Allenton Heights development and the West Tennessee Farmers Market plans to install EBT machines. The neighborhood plan has also accelerated other major physical improvements, including a new walking trail, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and a 174-unit mixed-use development. The Jackson Housing Authority is also exploring options for rebuilding the Allenton Heights public housing development.



Jackson-Walk, a new 174-unit, mixed-use development, near the state-of-the-art Lift Wellness Center

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.

[Click here](#) for access to previous editions of the Choice Neighborhood newsletter.

*Funding opportunities, events, tools, research, and publications listed do not necessarily reflect the views of HUD or the Choice Neighborhoods program office.