



# Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Choice Neighborhoods Promising Practice Webinar: Wednesday, Sept. 24**

*“Placing School Improvement and Student Achievement at the Center of Revitalization in Seattle’s Choice Neighborhood”*

[Register here to attend this webinar](#), which will be held on September 24, from 1 – 2 PM EST.

Improving schools and educational outcomes can be a key driver in creating desirable neighborhoods. Improving school quality boosts the surrounding housing market and makes the neighborhood more appealing to new residents. Improving education opportunities for current residents is also a key factor in ensuring that the neighborhood remains a viable place for families to stay well into the future. Recognizing this, the Seattle Housing Authority has prioritized educational improvements in the Yesler neighborhood by collaborating with multiple partners, including Seattle University, the school district and child-centered nonprofit organizations. As a result, positive educational outcomes are emerging for students in Yesler’s local elementary school.

In partnership with HUD, the Center for the Study of Social Policy will be hosting a webinar that will draw on the experience of Seattle’s Choice Neighborhood to allow participants to better understand:

- Why focusing on improving schools and education outcomes is important for broader neighborhood revitalization;
- How creating opportunities for children along a “cradle-to-career” pipeline can be useful in improving both education outcomes and neighborhood schools; and
- Why the role of anchor institutions and education partnerships are an integral part of implementing educational improvement strategies successfully.

Featured speakers will include John Forsyth from the Seattle Housing Authority and Kent Koth from Seattle University.

## **Trauma Informed Community Building in San Francisco's Choice Neighborhood - Webinar**

In early September 2014, The Center for the Study of Social Policy and HUD hosted a webinar on a trauma informed community building model that has been developed by San Francisco State University and BRIDGE Housing Corporation. The trauma informed community building (TICB) model acknowledges the ongoing stress and trauma that are pervasive in communities facing poverty, ongoing violence, isolation, and limited resources. During the webinar, presenters from BRIDGE Housing in San Francisco's Potrero Hill neighborhood shared their model and how the principles and strategies outlined within it have shaped community building in their Choice Neighborhood. Other panelists also weighed in on how the approach is useful to a wide variety of neighborhood revitalization and community change initiatives.

The interactive webinar was attended by a wide range of participants, including Choice Neighborhood grantees, Promise Neighborhood grantees, Byrne Criminal Justice Innovations Program grantees, Building Neighborhood Capacity Program grantees, Casey Foundation Family-Centered Community Change neighborhoods, Community Development Corporations, and city, state and federal government representatives.

To view the slides and recordings from this webinar as well as the BRIDGE's TICB paper, [click here](#).



## **RESOURCES AND INFORMATION**

### **New Web Resources about Place-Based Public Safety Strategies**

If you missed the public safety sessions at the June Choice Neighborhoods Annual Conference in Washington, DC, never fear! You can find information about the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation program at [www.lisc.org/BCJI](http://www.lisc.org/BCJI), including descriptions of the work in the Bayview neighborhood of [San Francisco](#) and the Brownsville neighborhood of [Brooklyn](#), featured in the “Working with Youth to Tackle Root Causes of Crime” conference session. To learn more about the efforts of other BCJI sites across the country, explore the new content on the LISC/BCJI website covering topics such as building strong [cross-sector](#) and [researcher-practitioner partnerships](#) for public safety.

### **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design**

What makes certain streets or blocks hotspots for crime? Many Choice Neighborhoods leaders have seen that design features of the street itself – poor sightlines, dim lighting, and decrepit infrastructure – can be magnets for criminal activity. Read [this new blog](#) by LISC about Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) featured by the Bureau of Justice

Assistance this summer and find other tools to aid your use of CPTED on the [LISC Community Safety Resource Center](#).

## **Department of Justice and the International Association of Chiefs of Police Release Groundbreaking Model Policy**

The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), in partnership with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), has released a seminal model policy regarding police interaction with children who are impacted when a parent is arrested and law enforcement carries out its investigative and arrest responsibilities. Reflecting the collective input of a wide range of subject-matter experts and stakeholders, and understanding that interactions between children and law enforcement create lasting impressions, the resulting model policy, *Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents*, provides strategies for law enforcement to improve their procedures and positively impact the communities they serve. To read the entire announcement, [click here](#).

A copy of the report can be found by visiting the OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance website [here](#).

## **How Denver Is Becoming the Most Advanced Transit City in the West**

Ten years ago, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper (then Denver Mayor) convinced voters to approve the expansion of the region's rail system. The approved [FasTracks program](#), was to add 121 miles of new commuter and light-rail tracks to the region, 18 miles of bus rapid transit lanes, 57 new rapid transit stations, and 21,000 park-and-ride spots. Betting that a considerable amount of the people of Denver will give up their cars, the plan will offer a bus-rapid transit system to Boulder by 2016 and should have all but one of its ten FasTrack lines completed by 2018. To read more about the future of Denver's transit system, click [here](#).

## **The Housing Market Is Improving, but There Still Aren't Enough Affordable Homes to Go Around**

According to the latest update to Zillow's U.S. Home Value Index, the average nationwide home value as of June 2014 is \$174,200 which is as high as it has been since March 2005. But Zillow's report is not all good news. According to Zillow, there is also not enough affordable housing inventory to go around in most of the country's large metro areas. Homeownership may in fact be slipping out of reach for not only lower income Americans, but working and middle class people as well. To read more about Zillow's report and affordable housing, [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: [choicetaenewsletter@bctpartners.com](mailto:choicetaenewsletter@bctpartners.com).**



## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **ANNOUNCING New Request for Proposals- FY 2015 Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (BF AWP) Grant Guidelines**

EPA is announcing the availability of funding to eligible entities who wish to develop an area-wide plan for brownfields assessment, cleanup, and subsequent reuse. This funding is for research, technical assistance, and/or training activities directed to one or more brownfield site(s) located in a specific area (such as a neighborhood, district, local commercial corridor, community waterfront or city block). Each project funded under this grant must result in an area-wide plan which includes specific implementation strategies for assessing, cleaning up, and reusing the brownfields site(s) as well as related brownfields and project area revitalization strategies. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 20 projects in total, funded at up to \$200,000 each. Please note that applicants who received a BF AWP grant from EPA in Fiscal Year 2010 or 2013 (FY10 or FY13) are not eligible to apply under this competition. The proposal submission deadline is September 22, 2014. For the FY2015 BF AWP grant guidelines [click here](#).

More information on EPA's AWP Grant program can be found [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**

### **Can a Baltimore Neighborhood Avoid the Pitfalls of Gentrification?**

For decades, the Greenmount West neighborhood has been marred by crumbling, vacant rowhouses and drug-fueled crime. Now as economic development has begun, the community is grappling with what gentrification will look like. Greenmount West's median home price rose from \$10,000 in 2002 to \$184,900 in 2013, when 19 housing units were sold. Property taxes have increased as people with higher incomes have moved in and rehabbed older or vacant buildings. Within the neighborhood, there are divisions between those who see the tax jump as a necessary evil and those who worry they will not be able to afford to stay in the neighborhood

that's been their home, even during the bad times. To read more about Greenmount West, [click here](#).

### **Housing Challenges Real for Many Americans, Finds 2014 How Housing Matters Survey**

During the past three years, over half of all U.S. adults (52%) have had to make at least one sacrifice in order to cover their rent or mortgage, according to a new survey of housing attitudes released by The MacArthur Foundation. Despite headlines of recovering housing markets and a resurgent economy, significant portions of our communities have been left outside the sunlight of new opportunity. For too many people, having a safe, healthy home in a community of their choosing remains an economic impossibility. Working with the Hart Research Associates to conduct the second annual Housing Matters Survey, the MacArthur Foundation's polling indicates that the majority of people living in the country believe that the housing crisis is far from over. To read more about the housing challenges, [click here](#).

To read the press release from the MacArthur Foundation, [click here](#).

### **40 Years Later, Why Advocating for CDBG Still Matters**

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) was conceived and enacted in the 1970's, following significant social upheaval and ongoing disparities within cities and towns. This past August the CDBG program turned 40. The program's impact can be measured in every corner of the U.S. and in the lives of millions of Americans, 95% of whom are low- to moderate-income citizens. To read the National League of Cities reflection of how the program has evolved over successive legislative campaigns, [click here](#).