



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choice Neighborhoods Conference for Implementation and FY13 & FY14 Planning Grantees

HUD is hosting a conference for Implementation grantees and FY13 and FY14 Planning grantees on March 17-18. Registrants should receive an email confirmation by the end of this week. If you have registered but have not received a confirmation, please contact your HUD Team Coordinator. [Click here to view the draft agenda and session descriptions.](#)

New Q&As Posted for Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant NOFA

A new round of Q&As for the FY15/16 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant NOFA was recently posted on the [Choice Neighborhoods FY15 Funding Information Page](#). Interested applicants must apply through Grants.gov by February 9, 2016.

Join the Choice Neighborhoods Peer Exchange Group on LinkedIn

Looking for a quick and easy way to connect with your fellow Choice Neighborhoods? Have a question that if answered will save you tons of time? Want to share a great tool that will save another community from reinventing the wheel? Please join the Choice Neighborhoods Peer Exchange group on LinkedIn. [Join now!](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Accountable Health Communities Model Accepting Applications

The Accountable Health Communities Model is currently accepting applications through March 31. The AHC Model addresses a critical gap between clinical care and community services in the current health care delivery system for community-dwelling Medicare & Medicaid beneficiaries. Eligible applicants include community-based organizations, healthcare provider practices, hospitals and health systems, institutions of higher education, local government entities, tribal organizations and for-profit and not-for-profit local and national entities with the capacity to develop and maintain a referral network with clinical delivery sites and community service providers. Visit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [website](#) to access the Letter of Intent and Request for Applications. You can email accountablehealthcommunities@cms.hhs.gov to get your questions answered.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Explore Strategies to Reengage Disconnected Youth

On March 16-18, the National League of Cities will host the *Reengagement Plus! 2016* Convening in Dubuque, Iowa, an annual gathering for leaders, supporters, partners, and staff of the growing network of programs and partnerships focused on students who have left school before graduating. Through its [Reengagement Network](#), the National League of Cities assists cities in exploring and pursuing policy and programming to reengage these young adults. The convening provides opportunities for peer sharing, benchmarking and problem solving. To learn more, [click here](#) or contact Zachia Nazarzai at nazarzai@nlc.org.

Learn How Community Schools Contribute to Place-Based Initiatives

On April 6-8, the Coalition for Community Schools is hosting the *Rising Together: Learning Across Schools, Family, and Community* National Forum in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The U.S. Department of Education invites you to join a pre-conference meeting, *Making Connections: Community Schools as a Place-Based Strategy*, on the afternoon of April 5. This meeting will launch a community of practice for stakeholders leading place-based initiatives to learn how the community school model can contribute to place-based strategies. Please contact [Julie Ewart](#) if you have questions about the pre-conference. To register for the Community Schools National Forum, [click here](#).

Solutions for Housing Communications Convening

On April 28-29, the National Housing Conference will hold a convening in New York City. The event will engage affordable housing developers, advocates, funders and government officials in discussions about best practices for countering community opposition to affordable housing. To learn more, [click here](#).

Opportunity Finance Network Conference

On October 24-27, the Opportunity Finance Network, a trade organization of Community Development Financial Institutions, will hold its annual conference in Atlanta. Attendees will hear about industry trends and the role of CDFIs in neighborhood revitalization and job creation. To view the save the date, [click here](#).

IN THE NEWS

Mayors Recognizing Choice Neighborhoods Nationally

Recently, the mayors of Columbus, OH and Kansas City, MO recognized Choice Neighborhoods within their cities and how the grant activities stimulate local economies and improve the lives of residents.

On January 21, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest spoke with the mayors of Kansas City, Fresno and Boston to discuss challenges in their cities that are being addressed with federal partners. Kicking off the meeting was Mayor James of Kansas City, which recently received a FY2014 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant. Mayor James was asked to discuss how the current Administration supports cities, and his first remarks highlighted the City's work through Choice Neighborhoods. [Click here to listen to Mayor James' remarks, as well as the other leaders comments on improving their local jurisdictions.](#)

On January 28, HUD Secretary Julián Castro announced a reduction in mortgage insurance premiums for multifamily housing programs in Columbus. The announcement took place at Poindexter Place, the completed first phase of housing within the Columbus Choice Neighborhood. During the announcement Mayor Ginther, Housing Authority Executive Director Charles Hillman, and Julie DeGraaf Velazquez of McCormack Baron Salazar highlighted the Choice Neighborhoods activities alongside the Secretary. [Click here to view the announcement and learn more on the progress to date in Columbus.](#)

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

On September 28, 2015, HUD Secretary Julián Castro [announced](#) that five communities would receive a combined \$150 million in highly competitive Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant awards. This series spotlights the five new grantees and their neighborhood revitalization efforts.

The City of Milwaukee and the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee were awarded a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to redevelop the remaining 394 units at Westlawn public housing development and to revitalize the surrounding Westlawn neighborhood. Located seven miles northwest of downtown, Westlawn was once the city's largest public housing development. At the time it was originally constructed, there were very few homes in the area. The neighborhood, in essence, grew up around the barrack-style complex. Over the years, as its condition deteriorated, the development presented a challenge to the neighborhood's health and stability.

The recent redevelopment of the eastern half of Westlawn, however, has begun to spur other investment. For example, a retail strip notorious for drug dealing was turned into a new AutoZone and is attracting other business interest. The remaining 394 units of the original Westlawn development will be replaced in the neighborhood with a total of 708 mixed-income units. Redevelopment will align with existing neighborhood assets, including the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center and two neighborhood schools that will create a community "hub" for the revitalized site. Buildings developed along the Silver Spring retail corridor will include street fronting retail with mixed-income residential units above. Meanwhile, the City is working with its partners to improve the condition of nearby existing retail.

Beyond the housing redevelopment and retail improvements, the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee and its partners will focus on the stabilization of the surrounding neighborhood. They will reduce foreclosures, remove blight, and coordinate home repair assistance. Additionally, the plan calls for expanding transit service, upgrading recreational and park space, and improving streetscapes. Moreover, partners will offer prenatal care to families, connect children to high-quality early education centers, and strengthen school reforms and supports. Resident Employment Coordinators will help residents find and maintain jobs by developing relationships with employers and functioning as job brokers and coaches for residents.

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