



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

2016 Appropriations for Choice Neighborhoods

Choice Neighborhoods was awarded \$125 million under the 2016 Omnibus Bill passed in December, 2015. This funding will allow for new Choice Neighborhoods grants.

Webinar and Q&A Posted for Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant NOFA

On November 23, 2015, HUD Secretary Julián Castro [announced](#) the availability of new Choice Neighborhoods funding and introduced a new, innovative component to the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant called Planning and Action Grants. These grants of up to \$2 million will enable communities to create a locally driven plan to transform struggling neighborhoods, as well as implement Action Activities such as launching fresh food initiatives and attracting new businesses. Eligible past Planning Grantees may apply for the Action Activities portion of the Planning and Action Grant, which is up to \$1.5 million. Applicants must apply through [Grants.gov](#) by February 9, 2016. An informational webinar and the first round of Q&As are now available on the [Choice Neighborhoods FY15 Funding Information Page](#).

Public Housing in Sacramento Choice Neighborhood Receives Jobs Plus Award

On December 17, 2015, HUD [announced](#) the award of Jobs Plus funds to public housing developments in eight communities. One of those communities is a Choice Neighborhood in Sacramento, Calif., in which the Marina Vista and Alder Grove public housing developments are located. The purpose of the Jobs Plus Pilot Program is to develop locally based, job-driven approaches to increase earnings and advance employment for residents of public housing.

Third Round of Promise Zone Competition

HUD and USDA have announced the third and final round of the Promise Zones competition. Promise Zone designees will work directly with federal, state and local agencies to increase economic development, improve educational outcomes, leverage private investment, reduce violent crime, enhance public health, and address other priorities identified by the community. All Promise Zones will receive priority access to federal investments that further their strategic plans, federal staff on the ground to help them implement their goals, and five full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members. HUD and USDA will be holding informational webcasts starting in January, 2016. For more information and to register, [click here](#). Applications are due by February 23, 2016. See the [Federal Register](#) to find out how to apply.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Technical Assistance for Transit-Oriented Development Initiatives

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is soliciting applications to help communities improve access to public transportation, build economic opportunities and pathways to employment, and support transit-oriented development (TOD). Communities that have received FTA funding for transit projects (e.g., TIGER, New Starts, or Small Starts grants) and have an interest in TOD can submit a request for technical assistance. [Requests for technical assistance](#) are due by January 19, 2016.

Technical Assistance for Neighborhood Stabilization and Revitalization

The Center for Community Progress (CCP) is accepting applications for its Technical Assistance Scholarship Program. CCP will select no more than three scholarship recipients to receive up to 200 hours of targeted technical assistance at a significant discount to address large-scale vacancy and abandonment. [Applications](#) are due by January 21, 2016.

Funding for Training and Connections to High Growth Jobs

The U.S. Department of Labor will award approximately 35 grants of up to \$5 million to eligible nonprofits under its TechHire Partnership Grant Program. This program funds approaches that will rapidly train and connect workers to well-paying, high-growth jobs in industries such as Information Technology (IT), healthcare, advanced manufacturing, financial services, and broadband. [Applications](#) are due by March 11, 2016.

Funding for Economic Development

The Economic Development Administration is accepting applications to support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. Grants of up to \$3 million each will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies. [Applications](#) are accepted on a rolling basis.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Neighborworks Training Institute

The Neighborworks Training Institute for housing and community development professionals will be held in Atlanta from February 22-26, 2016. More than 100 courses will be offered in various subject areas, including Affordable Housing, Community and Neighborhood Revitalization, Economic Development, Community Engagement and more. The trainings are delivered by expert practitioners from across the country. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual Conference

On April 23, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice will co-host their annual conference in Washington, D.C. Attendees will hear about the latest research, developments and challenges in establishing the best outcomes for youth in the criminal justice system and their families. To register, [click here](#).

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

New Series Features Results of Place-Based Initiatives

[A new series by the Urban Institute](#) showcases how grantees involved in federal place-based initiatives, like Choice Neighborhoods, collaborate on data collection and sharing, monitor outcomes, adjust resources, and find new partners. This series includes case studies and briefs about the data efforts in the Kansas City region, San Antonio, St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

Museums, Libraries and Comprehensive Initiatives

What role can museums and libraries play in the revitalization of communities? A report by LISC examines how museums and libraries are supporting neighborhood revitalization and developing programs to address community needs. Read more about promising practices [here](#).

Preserving Multifamily Workforce and Affordable Housing

Interested in identifying new sources of capital to create or preserve multifamily and workforce affordable housing? The Urban Land Institute has released a report profiling 16 efforts across the country where multifamily housing is being financed in different ways while still providing favorable returns to investors. To learn more about these strategies, [click here](#).

Programs that Foster Multiple Positive Outcomes for Children

A new report from Child Trends highlights how social service programs can affect multiple elements of a child's well-being through good program design and careful intervention rather than focusing on affecting a single outcome. The report profiles examples of service providers that have been successful in their approaches. To read the report, [click here](#).

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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.

In Memphis, Tenn., the Memphis Housing Authority and the city of Memphis were awarded a \$29.75 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to revitalize the South City neighborhood. Historically, the South City neighborhood experienced the negative effects of concentrated poverty, deteriorated housing, incompatible land use and high rates of unemployment and violent crime. Additionally, within South City is Foote Homes – the last remaining traditional public housing development in Memphis.



Memphis Grizzlies' FedEx Forum

In the late 1990s, several investments in the neighborhood were made, including the establishment of commercial centers and the Memphis Grizzlies' FedEx Forum. By 2009, the community built on these investments and began to create a new vision for the area. A FY2010 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant accelerated this

process, bringing together the Memphis Housing Authority, city, University of Memphis, Metropolitan Interfaith Association, police, schools and neighbors to create a plan.



Boys and Girls Club Facility across Lauderdale Street from the Foote Homes Site

Through the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant, the deteriorating, 420-unit Foote Homes development will be replaced with a 600-unit, mixed-income and multi-generational community built to market-rate standards and designed to complement the surrounding neighborhood. To bolster the housing strategy, the plan proposes key neighborhood improvements, such as the creation of retail, including grocery stores, an early education center, a small business micro-loan fund, improved transit, historic preservation initiatives, and education and job opportunities for families. The plan will also pilot the city's Blueprint for Prosperity for the children and families of South City, including a comprehensive case management system; access to a network of medical care providers and amenities that facilitate healthy lifestyles; proven employment programs; and an extensive series of educational supports for children of all ages.

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