



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter Issue 45 / December 2015

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

New Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant NOFA adds Action Component

On November 23, 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. Because this is the first time that Action Activities funds are offered, 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 submit a completed electronic application through www.grants.gov by February 9, 2016. More information, including questions and answers and a webinar will be available at www.hud.gov/cn in the coming weeks.

Cost Controls & Safe Harbor Standards for Section 8 Projects

In order to expedite the review process and control costs for Section 8 projects that also involve Choice Neighborhoods funding, HUD has instituted safe harbor and maximum fee ranges for a number of costs, similar to the standards that have been in effect for mixed-finance public housing development since 2003. HUD recently released a [document](#) that includes these standards, as well as guidance on several development issues.

Choice Neighborhoods Conference Date Confirmed

The 2016 Choice Neighborhoods Annual Conference is confirmed for March 17-18 in Washington, DC. The conference will be open to current Choice Neighborhoods grantees. Current grantees will receive a Save-the-Date in the coming weeks.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants for Juvenile Reentry Assistance

HUD recently announced the availability of funding for the Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program. These grants are open to Public Housing Authorities who have established a partnership with a legal aid organization, university legal center, public defender's office, or

other legal service organization that is a nonprofit and has experience providing legal services to juveniles (including expungement and/or sealing the juvenile and/or adult criminal records) for 1) current public housing resident youth up to 24 years old who have a criminal record and/or 2) former household members (who are youth up to 24 years old) of current public housing residents who, but for their criminal record, would be living in public housing. [Applications](#) are due by January 4, 2016.

HHS Child Traumatic Stress Initiative Funds

The Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) the availability of Community Treatment and Services (CTS) centers grants. The purpose of this program is to provide and increase access to effective trauma-focused treatment and services systems in communities for children, adolescents, and their families who experience traumatic events. Approximately 56 grants will be awarded of up to \$400,000. [Applications](#) are due by February 4, 2016.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Webinar: Addressing Ex-Prisoner Re-Entry at the Community Level

On December 17, the University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty and the Urban Institute are hosting a webinar on community level strategies for re-entry. The webinar will discuss challenges faced by both former inmates and neighborhoods, followed by strategies that communities and organizations have taken to help improve the re-entry process. Discussion will include a particular focus on a new initiative to develop social impact bonds that could help fund programs for returning citizens from prison. To register, click [here](#).

Cross Sector Partnership Assessment Tool

Living Cities has provided a new, free [tool](#) to help improve partnerships. The 10 minute survey helps those engaged in cross-sector partnerships think through how their partnership operates and provides them with tailored feedback and advice on how to get to better results; improve the way they work with stakeholders; and achieve their mission.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: MEET THE NEW GRANTEES

On September 28, 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 Kansas City, Missouri, the Housing Authority of Kansas City and the City of Kansas City, Missouri will use \$30 million in Choice Neighborhoods funding to catalyze the revitalization of the Paseo Gateway district. By implementing the Transformation Plan developed as a result of a 2010 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, the partners will increase housing options in the neighborhood and surrounding opportunity areas, spark economic development, and improve health and education opportunities for Chouteau Courts and Paseo Gateway families.

East of downtown Kansas City, the Paseo Gateway is centrally located with direct access to the central business district. An ethnic melting pot and immigrant center for the past century, Paseo Gateway is known as the “Ellis Island” of Kansas City. Since the mid to late twentieth century,

the area has declined as a result of movement towards the suburbs and loss of manufacturing. Still, the Transformation Plan builds on existing neighborhood assets, including the City's first boulevard and largest collection of Victorian homes, nationally listed urban scenic byways, and the expansion of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

A major component of the plan is replacing the Chouteau Courts' 134 severely distressed units with 360 new mixed-income units. To bolster the housing investment's impact, the Transformation Plan focuses on increasing public safety and commercial investment near the new housing and along key corridors that serve as gateways to downtown and existing neighborhood assets. The plan calls for improving pedestrian, bike and public transportation routes, upgrading parks, redesigning key intersections, repurposing vacant lots for positive interim uses, and renovating at-risk homeownership properties.

The Transformation Plan further responds to the priorities of both Chouteau Courts and other Paseo Gateway residents with initiatives in healthcare, job training, and education. Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center, is conducting health assessments and patient navigator services through the Community Centered Care Initiative. The Full Employment Council, Kansas City's Workforce Investment Board, is providing a full-time career navigator to place and support residents in job-driven training for in-demand industries. United Way of Greater Kansas City, in partnership with the Kansas City School District, is launching an expanded learning initiative at Garfield Elementary School located in the neighborhood.



HUD Secretary Julián Castro (center) amidst excited residents at the announcement of the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant award with Mayor James (right), Housing Authority Executive Director Lowndes (center, back), and Congressman Cleaver (left).

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