



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter Issue 40 / July 2015

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Final Webinar in the Choice Neighborhoods Performance Measurement Webinar Series

The final webinar in the Performance Measurement and Management Systems series will take place July 14 at 3 pm. It will share best practices for assessing partners' capacity and infrastructure for performance management and measurement. The series is primarily designed for FY13 & 14 Planning Grantees but all grantees are welcome to attend. [Register here.](#)

Choice Neighborhoods Conference Moved to March

The Choice Neighborhoods Annual Conference has moved from November to early March, 2016. The Choice Neighborhoods team will share updates and additional information as it becomes available.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE AND PROMISE ZONES CORNER

Third Round of Promise Zone Competition is Coming Later This Year

During the summer, HUD will publish a Notice in the Federal Register soliciting public comments on how to help improve the proposed selection process for the 3rd and final round of the Promise Zone initiative. Join the [mailing list](#) to stay abreast of the latest information.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding to Support Revitalization Strategies

Funding is available through the Community Legacy Program (CL) and Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund (SDSGIF) to support projects such as homeownership and mixed-use development. Eligible projects should be a part of a larger revitalization strategy. The application deadline is July 15. [Click here](#) to learn more about the application process.

Funding to Benefit Low and Moderate Income Individuals and Communities

The Santander Bank Foundation seeks to enhance the quality of life for individuals and the communities they serve by supporting local non-profit organizations on various quality of life projects such as affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization. The fall application deadline is September 18. [Click here](#) for more information and to access the grant application.

Safety and Education Grants Available from State Farm Companies Foundation

State Farm Companies Foundation helps to build safer and stronger communities through their grants focused in two areas: safety and education. 2016 funding requests will be available September 1 through October 30, 2015. [Click here](#) for more information and the application.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

National Housing Mobility Conference

Join leading national researchers, policy experts, and housing mobility practitioners to learn and share best practices for improved and expanded housing mobility initiatives on July 16 in Chicago. [Learn more](#) and [register here](#).

Community Development Society Annual Conference

The Community Development Society (CDS) will host its annual conference on July 19-22 in Lexington, Kentucky. Join fellow community developers to discuss approaches to strengthening health, economic vibrancy, and the environment, among other topics. [Click here](#) to register.

eCourse on Community Engagement for Collective Impact Initiatives

Living Cities is offering a free 5 modules eCourse on how to help collective impact initiatives better understand how to work with community members. [Click here](#) to learn more and access the materials.

Listing of HUD Federal Interagency Youth Initiatives and Affiliations

The following list represents various HUD interagency youth initiatives and HUD partnerships with the overall goal of improving outcomes for youth and ensuring at risk youth successfully transition to adulthood. Each listing provides links to more information, tools, and resources.

1. [Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs \(IWGYP\)](#) - The IWGYP consist of 12 federal agencies that administer youth programs and seeks to promote achievement of at-risk youth through collaboration, the disseminating of information, developing an overarching strategic plan for federal youth policy, and producing a federal website to promote effective community-based efforts.
2. [National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention \(the “Forum”\)](#) –The Forum allows participating localities to share challenges and promising strategies with each other and to explore how federal agencies can better support local efforts to reduce youth violence.
3. [Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(Council\)](#) – The Council coordinates federal juvenile delinquency prevention programs, federal programs

and activities that detain or care for unaccompanied juveniles, and federal programs relating to missing and exploited children.

4. [Interagency Reentry Workgroup/Juvenile Reentry](#) – The workgroup is comprised of 12 federal agencies with the intent of coordinating and identifying policy and programmatic areas to enhance efforts surrounding reentry.
5. [Children of Incarcerated Parents \(COIP\)](#) – Led by the Dept. of Justice’s Reentry Council, COIP agencies are putting strategies in place to ensure that children of incarcerated parents’ are not negatively impacted by their parent’s incarceration.
6. [My Brother’s Keeper](#) – The Obama administration joined with philanthropy and the private sector to launch My Brother’s Keeper to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color using proven tools.
7. [Interagency Forum on Disconnected Youth](#) – A federal interagency effort that focuses on coordinating state/local resources to improve outcomes for youth who are not in school, not working, and/or disconnected from society in general.
8. [HUD/HHS/Dept. of Labor Youth Summer Employment Effort](#) – A formal interagency partnership to promote hiring young people living in HUD-assisted households and encourages the use of CDBG funding to support summer employment.
9. [HUD/USDA Partnership to Promote Summer Meals Program and Year Round Food and Nutritional Programs](#) – Partnership provides school-age children living in HUD-assisted households with access to nutritional meals beyond the school year and school hours.
10. [HUD/GreatSchools](#) – A HUD partnership with [GreatSchools](#), a national non-profit to provide parents with the tools and resources they need to choose the right school for their child.
11. [HUD/FirstBook](#) – A HUD partnership with FirstBook provides free or low cost brand new books to low income families with school-age children.
12. [HUD/ABCmouse.com](#) – A HUD partnership with ABCmouse.com, the leading and most comprehensive online curriculum for young learners, helps children ages 2-7 build a strong foundation for future academic success.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Best Practices for Successfully Implementing a Neighborhood Field Survey

In this [report](#) using the Promise Neighborhood program, the Urban Institute identifies practical strategies for how to use field surveys to collect high-quality neighborhood data from families.

Case Study on How to Train Community Residents for “Middle-Skilled” Jobs

Using the Wesley Community Center in Houston as an example, this [case study](#) demonstrates how to provide integrated and targeted training to struggling residents for middle-skilled jobs.

Case Study on How to Open a Worker-Owned Grocery in the Inner City

In this [case study](#), the Cincinnati Union Cooperative Initiative (CUCI) demonstrates how to successfully launch a worker-owned grocery and re-introduce access to healthy, affordable foods within an underserved community while proving well-paying positions with benefits.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

The Shreveport Choice Neighborhood consists of two connected inner-city neighborhoods, Allendale and Ledbetter Heights, marked by urban decay, severe poverty, high crime, and unemployment. To address these challenges and create a vibrant neighborhood, the Shreveport Choice Neighborhoods Team is converting their Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan into action and achieving progress on multiple fronts.

To lead these efforts, the City has hired an Implementation Coordinator and the Mayor designated a Community Advisory Board of residents, business owners, community representatives, and non-profits to regularly assess implementation efforts.

New housing development is in progress: Phase I construction for 40 mixed-income garden-style apartments is expected to be completed soon; 200 vacant and adjudicated properties have been acquired; partial funding has been secured to develop an additional 200 housing units, a park, and botanical garden; and the City has received a \$1.2 million EDA grant and a \$5 million matching grant to develop Millennium Studios housing.



Courtesy: Housing Authority of the City of Shreveport

Neighborhood improvements are also well underway. Funding was secured to restore several attractions and historical landmarks, including the Civil Rights Museum, the Municipal Auditorium of Louisiana Hayride, and the esplanade. A public transportation facility will open in 2016. Plans for a much needed grocery store are coming to fruition. Additionally, a place-making initiative has begun to secure funding for a newly designed park, street improvements, and a bike path.

Meanwhile, to improve education outcomes, the Community Foundation of North Louisiana kicked off a collective impact initiative focused on improving a neighborhood elementary school. The foundation, other partners, and the National Communities-In-Schools organization have also targeted the elementary school and high school to launch Communities in Schools—a national, highly effective model for preventing dropout and raising academic achievement.

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.