



## Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter Issue 44 / November 2015

### CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

#### **Choice Neighborhood Promising Practice Guide: Civic Participation**

This [guide](#) describes the development of an infrastructure for civic participation in Pittsburgh's Larimer/East Liberty Choice Neighborhood. The Larimer Consensus Group (LCG), a grassroots group comprised of residents and other community stakeholders, emerged from a community-driven planning process in 2008. Since that time, the LCG has developed into an influential stakeholder in neighborhood revitalization. The group serves as a promising example for communities seeking to build civic participation that drives and sustains neighborhood gains.

#### **White House Champions of Change**

The White House is seeking nominations for individuals who have worked to prevent substance abuse, improve access to treatment, and support recovery efforts related to prescription-drug abuse and heroin use. If applicable, grantees may wish to consider nominating relevant individuals connected with Choice Neighborhoods efforts. [Nominations](#) must be submitted by December 19.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Urban Waters Small Grants Program**

EPA is accepting applications for projects that will address urban runoff pollution, with an emphasis on underserved communities. The program can help communities restore urban waters in a way that will also benefit community and economic revitalization. Approximately 30 awards of up to \$60,000 will be made. [Click here](#) to check if your urban area qualifies. [Applications](#) are due by November 20.

#### **Head Start and Early Head Start Grants**

HHS is accepting applications from nonprofits in a variety of localities across the nation to provide Head Start and Early Head Start services. Grants are posted individually by each locality (often a county) and award amounts vary. Applications are due by November 30. To see if your locality is eligible, visit the [grants search page](#) and enter "Head Start" in the keyword search.

## **Funding for Community Food Projects**

The USDA is accepting applications for projects that will meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach to assist in participation of federally assisted nutrition programs, or improved access to food as part of a comprehensive service. A total of over \$8,600,000 in awards are available. The [application](#) deadline is November 30.

## **Funding to Help Low Income Families Build Savings**

HHS is accepting applications to administer the Assets for Independence Demonstration. Awards will enable grantees to administer individual development accounts (IDAs), financial literacy services, and related activities for low-income individuals. With an IDA, the individual's savings are matched by program funds and can be used towards a first home, business, or post-secondary education or training. Approximately 35 awards will be made of up to \$1,000,000 each.

[Applications](#) are due by December 15.

## **EVENTS AND TOOLS**

### **Webinar: Transportation & Health Tool**

The Department of Transportation and the Centers for Disease Control recently released their [Transportation and Health Tool](#). Communities can use the tool to see how their metropolitan area or state compares on key transportation and health issues. It also provides information and resources on strategies for improving health through transportation planning. A [webinar](#) will be held on November 9 to discuss the tool.

### **Webinar: Leveraging Section 3 Opportunities**

On November 10, HUD and the Department of Labor will host a webinar highlighting different partners and best practices to better leverage Section 3 opportunities. This webinar is part of a series promoting partnerships among contractors, Public Housing Authorities, Registered Apprenticeships, YouthBuild programs, and the Section 3 program. [Click here](#) to register.

### **Webinar: Community-Driven Development in East Baltimore**

On November 10, the Annie E. Casey Foundation will host a webinar exploring East Baltimore's community-driven approach to redeveloping the Oliver Neighborhood. The effort has generated significant investment and progress in transforming a struggling neighborhood. To register, [click here](#).

### **NeighborWorks Training Institute in DC**

The NeighborWorks Training Institute is holding training sessions on a wide range of neighborhood topics from December 7-11 in Washington, DC. The institute will include [courses](#) in the areas of affordable housing, asset management, community and neighborhood revitalization, community economic development, community engagement, housing counseling, and others. To register and learn more, [click here](#).

### **HHS Toolkit to Promote Preventative Care**

The [Living Well Toolkit](#) created by HHS offers resources and guidance to help Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries understand and access preventative

care. The Toolkit includes educational materials to print, social media ideas, and tips to engage partners and the media in health education.

### **Archived Webinar: New Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule**

Last month, HUD released a [webinar](#) explaining what the new Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rules means and how it impacts HUD programs.

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### **Guide to Engaging Anchor Institutions in Community Development**

This [guide](#) written by the Urban Institute and New York University provides actionable recommendations for how local leaders can engage anchor institutions in economic and community development. The report includes a step-by-step approach to developing successful anchor partnerships, as well as ideas for city-anchor compacts, leveraging the Affordable Health Care, and creating pathways to employment.

### **Alternatives to Arresting Youth**

This National League of Cities' [brief](#) suggests alternatives to arresting youth, which is tied to worse outcomes in later life. The paper summarizes key components and provides examples of promising practices in several cities.

### **Case Study: Using New Market Tax Credits to Finance a Grocery Store**

This [brief](#) from the Journal of Tax Credits shows how a grocery store was developed in a struggling neighborhood using New Market Tax Credits. The brief also describes how the store's development aligned with the creation of a new health clinic.

### **Transforming U.S. Workforce Development**

The Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta and Kansas City recently released [Transforming U.S. Workforce Development Policies for the 21st Century](#). The volume compiles contributions from 65 leading scholars and practitioners and provides examples of how localities are changing workforce development practices to meet the needs of workers, employers, and communities.

## 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 Atlanta, GA, the Atlanta Housing Authority and the City of Atlanta were awarded a \$30 million FY2014/15 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant for the University Choice Neighborhood. Once a thriving center, the University Choice Neighborhood was historically home to African American civil rights leaders and is still home to a cluster of prominent Historically Black Colleges and Universities. But after decades of disinvestment, the area suffers from vacant storefronts, boarded homes, failed schools, and concentrated poverty.



*Neighborhood residents participating in a community design charrette as part of the FY 2010 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant.*

Building off an FY 2010 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant and a Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grant, the Atlanta Housing Authority, the City of Atlanta, neighbors, and a host of partners are working to reverse these trends. The \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant will leverage an additional \$215 million to transform the neighborhood. Their plan calls for building mixed-income housing to replace University Homes, a 1938-public housing development that was demolished in 2009 due to severe disrepairs. A joint venture with The

Integral Group will lead the development of 446 new, mixed-income units, including 229 replacement units.

Atlanta Housing Authority and the United Way will also work with more than 18 partners to create a network of supports to improve employment, health, and education outcomes. Among other strategies, these partners will offer training in high demand industries, deploy Morehouse School of Medicine case managers to increase access to health care, and establish a nationally-recognized dropout prevention program at four neighborhood schools. Finally, Invest Atlanta will build off of exciting neighborhood improvements, including the new Falcon's stadium, by replacing strategically-located blighted properties, expanding park land and greenways, and revitalizing the streetscapes of main corridors.



*Conceptual rendering by Urban Collage of a revitalized Atlanta Student Movement Boulevard.*

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