



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

Issue 55 | December 2016

[Announcements](#) | [Funding Opportunities](#) | [Events and Tools](#)
[Research and Publications](#) | [Spotlight](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Streamlined RAD-Choice Neighborhoods Protocols

The offices overseeing the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) and Choice Neighborhoods program recently agreed to a new Protocol for reviewing Choice Neighborhoods developments that are also converting public housing units under RAD. Instead of requiring separate Choice Neighborhoods and RAD reviews, the new Protocol combines the review and approval of RAD/Choice Neighborhoods Projects into one process, primarily following the Choice Neighborhoods Development Proposal approval process. The [Protocol](#) and accompanying [checklist](#) are posted on the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants [webpage](#).

Convening for New Planning Grantees

On March 8-9, 2017, HUD will hold a convening in Washington, D.C. for the eight new FY15/16 Planning grantees and Planning and Action grantees. At this convening, past Choice Neighborhoods grantees and community development experts will share insights on how to create aspirational and actionable Transformation Plans that can help revitalize neighborhoods and create opportunities for residents. FY 15/16 Planning grantees and Planning and Action grantees will receive an official save the date in the coming weeks.

Webinar on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

On December 6, LISC, the technical assistance provider for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) program, will hold a [webinar](#) exploring Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) practices. Speakers include practitioners and partners from BCJI sites in Milwaukee and Kansas City and an expert in CPTED approaches and training. [Click here](#) to register.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants for Promotion of Historic Sites and Other Humanities Projects

The National Endowment for the Humanities is awarding [Public Humanities Projects](#) grants of up to \$1 million each for activities that focus on history, literature, ethics, or art, or address challenging issues. Funds can be used to support the promotion of historic sites, houses, and neighborhoods, which might include living history presentations,

guided tours, exhibitions and public programs. Funds can also be used to support other exhibitions or community conversations about local challenges that are guided by perspectives from the humanities. Nonprofits, institutions of higher education and local governments are eligible to [apply](#) by January 11, 2017.

Philanthropic Funding for Sustainability Projects

A network of philanthropists, called The Funder's Network, is launching a new round of [Partners for Places](#) grants. Partners for Places is a grant matching program that connects local governments and place-based foundations. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$75,000 for one year projects and \$50,000 to \$150,000 for two year projects, with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundations. This funding can support a variety of sustainability projects in urban areas, such as green job training programs, urban farming, parks initiatives, and green infrastructure. Requests for Proposals will open on December 5, 2016 and are due by January 30, 2017.

Grants to Address Local Environmental and Public Health Issues

The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking applications for projects that address local environmental and public health issues within an affected community. The [Environmental Justice Small Grants Program](#) is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. Successful applicants can use funding for a variety of projects, such as engaging youth in stream-clean-up, reducing the presence of lead-based paint, or training residents to install or maintain resilient green infrastructure. Forty grants of up to \$30,000 each are available. Nonprofits are eligible to apply. The deadline to [apply](#) is January 31, 2017.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Recorded Webinar on Trauma-Responsive Youth Programs

The Annie E Casey Foundation recorded a [webinar](#) recently featuring practical tools and solutions for integrating trauma-responsive practices into youth programs. Adverse childhood trauma has a significant negative impact on development. Programs for children and youth that have experienced trauma are more effective if they are trauma-responsive.

Pay for Success Project Assessment Tool

Urban Institute released a [tool](#) to help organizations consider pursuing a Pay for Success financing model for their project. Pay for Success is an approach to contracting that ties payment for service delivery to the achievement of measurable outcomes, with the source of funding often coming from calculated municipal savings as a result of successful outcomes.

Recorded Webinar on Mapping Demographics at the Neighborhood Level

On October 24, PolicyLink released a new interactive neighborhood-level mapping tool for four indicators on their [Equity Atlas](#): people of color, race/ethnicity, unemployment, and disconnected youth. These new maps allow you to visualize the geography of opportunity by race/ethnicity across neighborhoods, which may be useful for applying for funding or advocating for additional programming with City or County leadership. [Click here](#) to view a webinar about the new maps.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Case Study on Generating Inclusive Economic Growth

This [case study](#) profiles the City of Indianapolis' participation in the [Equitable Innovation Economies](#) pilot program. The case study follows the City's development of a plan to increase equity in hiring in manufacturing by revitalizing industrial activity along the City's Mass Avenue/Brookside Industrial corridor. The case study highlights strategies—including connecting growing businesses to sites along the corridor, identifying short-term training opportunities and tracking equity impacts—being used to transform the industrial corridor and connect local residents to employment.

Strategies to Create and Preserve Affordable Housing in Hot Market Areas

The NYU Furman Center recently released a [review of strategies](#) to protect low-income households and the economic diversity of neighborhoods in the face of soaring housing costs in cities with hot markets. Approaches include strategic use of city-owned land, utilizing various city resources and harnessing the market.

Trends and Opportunities at the Intersection of Food and Real Estate

The Urban Land Institute released a [report](#) exploring the mutually beneficial relationship between food-based amenities—such as working farms, community gardens, food halls, restaurants, and grocery stores—and real estate. It highlights how the growing interest in and awareness of fresh, local food is spurring innovation in development projects that translate into enhancements in health, sustainability, economic opportunity, food system security, community economic development, and real estate returns.

Videos from 2016 Placemaking Leadership Forum

The [2016 Placemaking Leadership Forum](#), held this past September in Vancouver, focused on the future of cities and the role of placemaking to improve urban spaces. Topics included placemaking innovations, architecture of place, streets as places, equity and inclusion, community engagement, and more. [Videos](#) from the Forum sessions are now available online.

SPOTLIGHT: Neighborhood Strategic Revitalization Areas

As explained in a recent HUD [Notice](#), Entitlement Communities, or communities that receive CDBG funding by formula, are now able to more easily request Neighborhood Strategic Revitalization Area (NSRA) designation for Choice Neighborhoods. If requested by the CDBG grantee, a Choice Neighborhood with either 1) a HUD-accepted final transformation plan from a current or past Planning Grant or 2) an Implementation Grant will be automatically approved for NSRA designation. There is no longer an application process, and no additional reporting is required.

Designating a Choice Neighborhood as an NSRA allows the CDBG grantee more flexibility in how it can use its CDBG funding to support Choice Neighborhoods transformation efforts. Some of the benefits of receiving an NSRA designation from CPD include:

- eliminating national objective documentation requirements for economic development activities, which are often viewed as an impediment for businesses;

- aggregating CDBG assisted housing units in order to encourage mixed-income housing by viewing scattered housing projects as a single structure;
- exempting the target area from the aggregate public benefit standard that is required when underwriting economic development activities; and
- exempting the neighborhood from the public service cap for those services carried out by Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs).

One example of a community that has combined a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant and an NSRA is Durham, North Carolina. In Durham, the target community recognized that although CDBG must be used for low and moderate income families, in order for real revitalization to occur, they needed to foster mixed income development within the neighborhood. With their NSRA designation, they were able to fund a rehabilitation program for long-time homeowners to help with neighborhood stabilization. The NSRA allows single-family housing units to be aggregated for application of Low and Moderate Income (LMI) restrictions, making it easier for Durham to implement their rehabilitation program by reducing the restrictions on LMI limits. This flexibility allowed neighbors who were above the income limits to fix their homes as well, helping decrease distressed housing and increase homeowner stability throughout the neighborhood.

Figure 1: Before and after of homeowner rehab in Durham's NSRA



In addition, the NSRA designation removes the cap on public services spending, which allowed Durham to spend more funds on programs and services for Southside residents. Durham was also strategic in how they blended CDBG funds with other funding sources. Since CDBG funds, including Section 108 loans, cannot be used for new construction, they used a Section 108 loan to rebuild the infrastructure for the expensive front end of development and then used other sources for the new construction. Creative use of CDBG funds, especially with the NSRA designation, can stretch limited federal dollars and leverage new resources to further Choice Neighborhoods transformation efforts.

[Previous Newsletters](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Choice Neighborhoods](#)

[Submit ideas for future Choice Neighborhoods newsletters.](#)