



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Five Promise Zones Designees Announced

On January 9th, in the East Room of the White House, the President announced the first five “Promise Zones”, located in the Eastside neighborhood of San Antonio, Philadelphia, a section of Los Angeles that stretches from Pico-Union to Hollywood, Southeastern Kentucky, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Several of the designees are in neighborhoods or areas that have received Choice Neighborhoods, Promise Neighborhoods, and Byrne grants. Designees will have access to on-the-ground federal partners, resources, and grant preferences. The full text of the announcement is available [here](#). Read more about Promise Zones on the [White House site](#) and the [HUD site](#).

Expertise Exchange: Constituent Voice and Engagement

In this webinar, a panel from Child Trends, Urban Institute, and Social Solutions will address the potential benefits of involving clients or program participants, how to put in place a formal process for gathering their input, as well as ways of involving them in more extensive ways. We will discuss questions related to the best ways of involving different populations, how to make it an affordable and integral part of program operations, how to avoid overburdening people with requests for feedback, and how to know whether efforts are successful. When registering, submit your question, and you may be selected to ask it “on the air,” which offers you the opportunity to engage in more depth with our panelists. We will also take questions through chat. The webinar will held Thursday, January 16th at 3:00 – 4:30 PM EST. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Arts and Neighborhood Revitalization Webinar Recap and Materials

Representatives from Choice Neighborhoods, Promise Neighborhoods, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) held a webinar on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 to discuss the use of the arts in neighborhood revitalization. Themes such as creative placemaking and cultural participation were reviewed, along with an overview of NEA's [Our Town](#) grant program. Participants were also able to hear promising practices of how the arts has successfully been used to spur neighborhood revitalization in cities such as Providence, RI and Berea, KY. Click [here](#) to access the webinar archive and supporting materials from the Choice Neighborhoods technical assistance website.

RAD Webinar Recap and Materials

On Thursday, December 12, 2013, HUD offered a webinar on the [Rental Assistance Demonstration](#) (RAD). Participants received an overview of the RAD program and requirements, as well as a demonstration of a helpful inventory tool to determine the potential benefits of leveraging RAD for their Choice Neighborhoods project. The webinar is in the process of being added to the Choice TA website so please check [here](#) in the next several weeks to view the archived webinar.

FY 2013 Planning Grantee Orientation Webinar

On Wednesday, December 18, 2013, the [recently announced](#) Choice Neighborhoods FY 2013 Planning grantees participated in an orientation webinar. Participants learned valuable information about program requirements and resources available to assist grantees in developing their neighborhood transformation plans. HUD staff shared successful strategies in areas such as resident and community engagement; partnership management and structure; and developing a shared vision. Stay tuned, the webinar archive and supporting materials will be uploaded shortly to the Choice Neighborhoods technical assistance website [here](#).

Development without Displacement Webinar

On November 21, 2013, Policylink offered a webinar entitled *Development without Displacement in Sustainable Communities*. Participants learned methods for identifying communities at risk of displacement, and how to minimize the impact of redevelopment on people and businesses as new transit and other improvements are completed. Click [here](#) to access the webinar archive.

School Discipline Guidance Package to Enhance School Climate and Improve School Discipline Policies/Practices

The U.S. Department of Education (ED), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), recently released a school discipline guidance package that will assist states, districts and schools in developing practices and strategies to enhance school climate, and ensure those policies and practices comply with federal law. Even though incidents of school violence have decreased overall, too many schools are still struggling to create positive, safe environments. Schools can improve safety by making sure that climates are welcoming and that responses to misbehavior are fair, non-discriminatory and effective. Each year, significant numbers of students miss class due to suspensions and expulsions—even for minor infractions of school rules—and students of color and with disabilities are disproportionately impacted. The guidance package provides resources for creating safe and positive school climates, which are essential for

boosting student academic success and closing achievement gaps. The resource documents can be found [here](#).

Please give us your feedback!

We work diligently to make this e-newsletter relevant to your work. Please submit Grantee feature articles, constructive feedback, story ideas, and funding announcements to: choicetaenewsletter@bctpartners.com.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Kellogg Foundation Leadership Development Fellowship Program

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) has launched the WKKF Community Leadership Network, a three-year fellowship program for community-based leaders. The Community Leadership Network seeks to develop the leadership skills of individuals working to assist vulnerable children and families in achieving optimal health and well-being, academic success, and financial security. WKKF has committed six years of support to develop three cohorts of 120 fellows. Every fellow will receive an annual stipend of \$20,000 and will be reimbursed for travel expenses as they expand their leadership skills at quarterly meetings with others in their fellowship cohort. In the third year of the program, each fellow will also receive \$5,000 to execute his or her action plan. Applications must be received by January 14, 2014. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Blackstone Charitable Foundation RFP for Veteran Employment Organizations

The [Blackstone Charitable Foundation](#) has issued a Request for Proposals to identify organizations and programs that directly support veterans employment and professional development. Grants will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Nonprofit organizations serving veterans and active servicemen and women transitioning to civilian life are eligible to apply. Applications must be received by January 14, 2014. Click [here](#) for more information.

Funding for Transitional Living Programs and Maternity Group Homes

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has made approximately \$6 million in funding available to provide runaway and homeless youth an alternative to law enforcement, child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice systems. Temporary living programs must provide basic life skills, including money management, budgeting, consumer education and use of credit, parenting skills (as appropriate), interpersonal skill building, educational advancement, job attainment skills, and mental and physical health care, as appropriate. Approximately 31

grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 will be allocated. Applications must be received by January 15, 2014. Click [here](#) to read the funding announcement.

National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read Program

The Big Read, a grant program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, seeks to restore reading to the center of American culture by providing competitive grants that support innovative reading programs in selected communities. Participating organizations will develop and produce reading programs that encourage reading and engagement with diverse local audiences. Eligible activities include author readings, book discussions, art exhibits, lectures, film series, music or dance events, theatrical performances, panel discussions, and other events and activities related to a book or poet from the Big Read Library. Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. Approximately 75 organizations will be selected to participate and receive a grant, educational and promotional materials, and access to online training resources and opportunities. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$20,000 and must be matched on a 1:1 basis with non-federal funds. Applications must be received by January 28, 2014. Click [here](#) to read more.

Family Literacy Grants

The [Wish You Well Foundation](#) provides grants to nonprofit organizations actively promoting family literacy in the United States. Grants range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Requests can be submitted at any time and are reviewed four times per year. Proposals should align with the Wish You Well Foundation's mission of "supporting family literacy in the United States by fostering and promoting the development and expansion of new and existing literacy and educational programs." Click [here](#) for more information on how to apply.

Coca-Cola Foundation Community Education Projects

The Coca-Cola Foundation partners with nonprofit organizations worldwide to support programs that focus on four categories: Education, Healthy and Active Lifestyles, Water Stewardship, and Community Recycling. For example, the Education portfolio focuses on scholarships, school drop-out prevention, access to education programs, and other education initiatives. Applications may be submitted online throughout the year. Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Coca-Cola Foundation's grantmaking activities. Click [here](#) to access the online application, as well as a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

Do you have a Technical Assistance (TA) Question, Request, or Suggestion?

Grantees with TA questions or requests, or a suggestion for an upcoming TA activity, are invited to submit them to BCT and HUD at hud.gov/choiceta.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Moving to Educational Opportunity – A Housing Demonstration

On December 9, 2013, the Urban Institute published an analysis of a housing mobility demonstration designed to improve the educational outcomes of students in families in low-performing, high-poverty schools. A randomized-control trial was used to provide subsidized households with prescreened lists of available housing in neighborhoods with high-quality, low-poverty schools. The report also includes a literature review of residential and school choice decision-making. Click [here](#) to access the report.

Best Practices for Energy Savings in Multifamily Buildings

The MacArthur Foundation, and American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy have released a report outlining the 10 best practices for designing and implementing effective energy efficiency programs for multifamily buildings. Research indicates that, due to a number of challenges for building owners, multifamily households are often underserved by energy efficiency programs. This report provides a list of case studies, potential ideas for energy saving, and strategies for reaching new customers. Click [here](#) to read the report.

Summer Learning and After School Resources

The latest science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) issue brief from the Afterschool Alliance, [Partnerships with STEM-Rich Institutions](#), outlines several models of how after school programs can successfully partner with STEM-rich institutions. Resources include a [series of new messaging tools](#) to explain the value of expanded-learning systems and intermediaries to a diverse audience; as well as a new [national study](#) offering insight into what urban, low-income tweens want in an after school arts program.

Three Lessons on Regionalism

The online periodical *Next City*, recently published an article on the benefits of utilizing a regional approach to urban redevelopment. Potential benefits such as a broadened tax base, and better access to jobs for low-wage workers were found in assessments of regional revitalization initiatives in Paris, France; Cincinnati, OH; and Northeast Ohio. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Creative Placemaking Case Studies

The M.I.T. Department of Urban Studies and Planning recently published a research brief entitled *Places in the Making: How Placemaking Builds Places and Communities* that highlights the history, current challenges, and future of placemaking in neighborhood revitalization efforts. Case studies of placemaking projects from across the country are used to illustrate the relationship between communities, their built environment, and the processes, community engagement, partnerships, funding, and messaging necessary for success. Click [here](#) to read the report.