



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choice Neighborhoods Awards Five New Implementation Grants

On December 12, 2016, HUD [announced](#) that five communities will receive a combined \$132 million in highly competitive Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant awards to redevelop severely distressed public or assisted housing and revitalize the surrounding neighborhood. Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants were awarded to communities in: Boston, MA; Camden, NJ; Denver, CO; Louisville, KY; and St. Louis, MO. The awards were featured in press outlets across the country, including local ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC television stations, the Boston Globe, Denver Post, Louisville Courier-Journal, and more. See the [Spotlight](#) below for highlights from each of the grantees or read the full grantee [project summaries](#).

Promise Neighborhoods Awards Announced

On December 20, 2016, the U.S. Department of Education [announced](#) the six winners of the 2016 Promise Neighborhoods competition, which will award \$33 million to help communities launch, scale, and sustain educational supports and community-based services to meet the complex needs of children and families. Three of the six communities awarded were past recipients of Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants, including communities in Camden, NJ, Los Angeles, CA, and Philadelphia, PA.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's [BCJI program](#) is awarding 12 grants of \$850,000 to \$1,000,000 for cross-sector, community-oriented projects that reduce crime and improve community safety as part of a neighborhood revitalization strategy. Two types of awards are available – Planning and Implementation, and Implementation Only (only available to prior BCJI recipients). Funds will be used to undergo community-oriented planning efforts, develop a comprehensive plan to reduce crime, and begin implementation. Applicants must [apply](#) through Grants.gov by February 2, 2017.

Volunteer Day of Service Small Grants Program

The Center for National Community Service has announced a funding opportunity for local governments, nonprofits and institutions of higher education to mobilize Americans to engage in service activities that meet vital community needs. The [Day of Service grant competition](#) includes funding for both the September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance and Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Award amounts will range from \$50,000 to \$150,000 for each day of service, and are subject to cost sharing or matching requirements. Intent to apply should be submitted by

Wednesday, February 8th, 2017 at 5:00pm ET. Applications are due February 22, 2017 by 5:00pm ET. [Click here](#) to download application instructions.

Engaging Underserved Populations in the Arts Small Grant Program

The National Endowment for the Arts announced its [Challenge America](#) grant program, which makes \$10,000 grants available to fund projects that extend the reach of the arts to populations that have limited access due to geography, ethnicity, economics or disability. Funding can be used to support a guest artist for a community arts project such as a mural or public sculpture. Applicants must [apply](#) through Grants.gov by April 13, 2017.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Webinar on Transportation: Mobility vs Accessibility

On January 11, 2017, Brookings will host and [webcast](#) a panel on the [Moving to Access initiative](#). The conversation will bring together experts from the three major disciplines – transportation, urban planning and finance – to explore how urban transportation policies could support a more equitable and accessible built environment.

Smart Growth Conference Registration Now Open

The [2017 New Partners Conference](#), the nation's largest smart growth and sustainability event, will take place on February 2-4, 2017 in St. Louis, Missouri. [Registration](#) is due January 13, 2017, and scholarships are available. [Presentations](#) and [plenaries](#) from last year's conference are available online for free.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program Expanded to Multifamily Housing

[HUD's Multifamily Newsletter](#) highlighted a recently released [notice](#) that includes a new opportunity for project-based section 8 multifamily housing properties to use residual receipt accounts to hire service coordinators to run a Family-Self Sufficiency (FSS) program. The FSS program helps connect families living in HUD subsidized housing with resources to improve their economic independence.

New HUD Tool Released to Depict HUD Investment at the Community Level

HUD recently unveiled [The Community Assessment Reporting Tool \(CART\)](#), a new, free mapping tool that shows HUD investments by city, state, county, metropolitan area, or congressional district. It also provides an interactive mapping interface that allows users to explore HUD investments within their community and see property- and grant-level detail at a variety of geographies.

Free Recorded Financial Literacy Curriculum

FDIC's free financial education curriculum, [Money Smart](#), is designed to help low- and moderate-income individuals gain personal finance skills and take steps to improve their financial well-being. The core curriculum is available in Spanish and 9 languages, but the suite of tools also includes a [curriculum for k-12 students](#), a self-paced [online learning tool](#), a [module](#) aimed at older adults, and a [program for small business owners](#). FDIC also offers a recorded [train-the-trainer curriculum](#) to prepare instructors to deliver the curriculum. The Money Smart program may be used by any organization, and financial institutions can offer these workshops to help fulfill Community Reinvestment Act obligations.

Recorded Webcast of How Housing Matters Conference

NHC's How Housing Matters 2016 Conference took place December 13, 2016 in Washington, DC. The conference brought together practitioners from different sectors to explore ways in which housing can be a platform for achieving positive outcomes in health, education and economic opportunity. [Recorded sessions](#) are now available online.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Action-Guide on Using the Arts for Community Development

The National Endowment for the Arts released [How to Do Creative Place-Making: An Action-Oriented Guide to Arts in Community Development](#), featuring essays by national leaders of the field, case studies and step-by-step instructions on how to use art as a tool for community development practitioners.

Playbook for Increasing School Readiness in Young Children

A new [School Readiness Playbook](#) highlights best practices for cross-sector, community-level, collaborative efforts to increase school readiness for young children. The playbook offers advice and resources to engage each of the various partners that can impact school readiness. This tool also includes lessons from the field, case studies, links to videos, and tips and tricks for developing and implementing strategies that work.

Blog Article on Using Technology for Healthcare Accessibility

The NeighborWorks blog recently showcased [lessons learned](#) on using telemedicine as a strategy to make healthcare more accessible for affordable housing residents. The blog features NeighborWorks member Avesta, an organization which houses 3,200 residents and set up a telemedicine room to virtually connect residents, many of whom are seniors or immigrants, with healthcare experts from the convenience of their home.

News Article Featuring PAPAS – a Program for At-Risk Fathers

The Detroit Free Press, supported by the Solutions Journalism Network, has published a series of articles identifying solutions for toxic stressors affecting children in distressed communities. The [most recent article](#) features [PAPAS](#), a community-based social justice program that provides culturally-appropriate programming for at-risk fathers to be more involved with their children.

SPOTLIGHT: New 2016 Implementation Grantees

On December 12, 2016, HUD [announced](#) that five communities would receive a combined \$132 million in highly competitive Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant awards. This spotlight features the [five new grantees](#) and their neighborhood revitalization efforts.

The Boston Housing Authority and the City of Boston were awarded a \$30 million FY2016 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant for the Whittier neighborhood of Roxbury. Supported by a FY2012 Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant, local leaders and community stakeholders created a plan to unleash the neighborhood's potential. With the award of a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant, the Boston Housing Authority and the City of Boston will make this plan a reality by replacing the obsolete Whittier Street public housing development with 472 new mixed-income housing units; reducing crime; creating safer, livelier streets; bolstering families' education and economic self-sufficiency; and supporting small businesses.



Figure 1: Dudley Square struggles with vacant and dilapidated commercial space. A key initiative of the Whittier Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan is to support existing businesses and stimulate new businesses such as Dudley Dough, a new locally-owned pizza restaurant.

The Housing Authority of the City of Camden and the City of Camden were awarded a \$13.2 million FY2016 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to revitalize the Mt. Ephraim South Neighborhood. Located south of the downtown core of Camden, the Mt. Ephraim South neighborhood includes Clement T. Branch Village – a severely distressed public housing development of 174 units. Once a neighborhood characterized by subsidized housing, the Mt. Ephraim South neighborhood has had several successful HOPE VI redevelopments, and today, “Branch Village” is the last traditional public housing site to be redeveloped. With the Choice Neighborhoods award, Camden’s Promise Zone designation from 2015, and powerful new economic incentives offered by the State of New Jersey, the Mt. Ephraim South neighborhood is well positioned for transformation.



Figure 2: Clement T. Branch Village public housing (left), is the last remaining traditional public housing development within the Mt. Ephraim South Corridor. Many former public housing development sites have since been redeveloped, including the site immediately adjacent to Branch Village (right). Clement T. Branch Village will be replaced with a new 176-unit town-home community and 50-unit senior facility.

The Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver and the City and County of Denver were awarded a \$30 million FY2016 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant for the Sun Valley neighborhood. Located just west of downtown Denver, Sun Valley is the lowest-income neighborhood in the city, and the Sun Valley Homes and Sun Valley Annex public housing developments are among the housing authority’s most distressed and isolated sites. Despite these challenges, Sun Valley holds incredible potential, with a new light rail station and significant planned private and public investments. With the award of a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant, local partners will be able to build 750 new, mixed-income housing units; improve the neighborhood’s landscape by creating new open space and increasing opportunities for local businesses; and improving families’ access to quality jobs and education.



Figure 3: Sun Valley Homes (left). A rendering of future mixed-income housing in Sun Valley (right).

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority and the Louisville Metro Government were awarded a \$29.5 million FY2016 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant for the Russell Neighborhood. A once thriving neighborhood in the early 1900s, today Russell is challenged with high vacancy rates, a heavy concentration of poorly designed, subsidized housing complexes, and a perceived dividing line that cuts the neighborhood off from downtown. Through over a decade of effort and a FY2014 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, the housing authority, the City, and nearly 600 residents and stakeholders have been galvanizing interest and reinvestment in the neighborhood. With this Implementation Grant and millions in leverage, Louisville will replace Russell's distressed 758-unit Beecher Terrace public housing complex with high quality, mixed-income housing; create educational and economic opportunities for families; and catalyze neighborhood economic and cultural growth with the launch of an eCommerce Business Incubator, a media-production center, small business loans, and homeowner rehab.



Figure 4: Units of the existing Beecher Terrace community (left) which will be replaced with a mixed-use development and Complete Street with green infrastructure and pedestrian-friendly amenities (rendered right). The project is designed to tear down the perceived dividing line between the Russell neighborhood and downtown Louisville.

The City of St. Louis has been awarded a \$29.5 million FY2016 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant for the Near North Side neighborhood. Located directly north of downtown St. Louis, the Near North Side is cut off from downtown by warehouses, vacant parcels, and the distressed Preservation Square project-based Section 8 housing development. With a FY2014 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, the City of St. Louis, Urban Strategies, and their partners created a plan to revitalize the Near North Side. Armed with their strategic, community plan and a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant, the City and their partners will create 695 new mixed-income housing units; repurpose historic but blighted properties into housing, retail, and commercial uses; increase access to loans for small businesses and homeowners; improve access to healthy foods; and offer evidence-based education and employment opportunities.



Figure 5: The Near North Side is peppered with unoccupied residences, warehouses, and commercial buildings (left) but recent investments are positioning the neighborhood for success. The new Flance Early Learning Center, for example, provides high quality early childhood education to children from all households regardless of income (right).

To read the awardees' full project summaries, [click here](#).

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