



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fiscal Year 2013 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grantees Announced

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced four new Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grantees on June 30, 2014. These four awardees will receive a combined \$119.7 million to redevelop severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing and bring comprehensive neighborhood revitalization to blighted areas. [Click here](#) to view the full announcement.

State	Awardee/Co-Awardee	City	Amount
Ohio	Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	Columbus	\$29,700,000
Connecticut	Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk/Norwalk Redevelopment Agency	Norwalk	\$30,000,000
Pennsylvania	City of Philadelphia, Office of Housing & Community Development/Philadelphia Housing Authority	Philadelphia	\$30,000,000
Pennsylvania	Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh/City of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	\$30,000,000

Fiscal Year 2014 Choice Neighborhoods Planning NOFA Published

The Fiscal Year 2014 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was issued on Friday, June 13, 2014 and announced approximately \$5 million of the Fiscal Year 2014 Choice Neighborhoods funding for Planning Grants. Applications are due August **12, 2014**. [Click here](#) for more information and to access the NOFA via www.grants.gov.

HUD anticipates releasing a Fiscal Year 2014 Implementation Grant NOFA in the fall of 2014. All funding announcements are posted on www.grants.gov, with additional information located at hud.gov/cn.

Promising Practice Webinar: Boston's Critical Community Improvements – July 16

This webinar will explore the process that the Boston Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant team used to determine the neighborhood improvement projects to leverage with Choice Neighborhoods Critical Community Improvements dollars. Robert Gehret from the City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development and Harry Smith from the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative will share their experiences and lessons learned. Boston's story serves as a promising practice for communities seeking to prioritize strategic neighborhood improvements.

Register [here](#) to attend the webinar on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EST.

In advance of the webinar, please review the [Promising Practice Guide](#).

Webinar - From the Ground Up: Creating Partnerships Between Public Housing Authorities and Workforce Investment Boards – July 14

This webinar is geared towards management and front-line workforce and housing authority staff to understand one another's work and the benefits of partnerships. Assisting public housing residents on the path towards self-sufficiency often requires overcoming barriers to employment, such as limited education or job skills.

The webinar presents information on how Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) can work together to overcome these challenges. Hear local examples of how partnerships between WIBs and PHAs can increase employment and create mutual benefit for both agencies. In addition, the Secretaries of Labor and HUD will kick-off the event with a very special message – You won't want to miss this exciting event!

Register [here](#) to attend the webinar on Monday, July 14, 2014 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST

The 2014 Neighborhood Revitalization Conference – July 24 – 25 in Washington, D.C.

Co-hosted by the Alliance for Children and Families' Center for Engagement and Neighborhood Building and the Center for the Study of Social Policy, this conference will bring together government administrators, funders, and leaders of local initiatives to discuss what is working and what is changing in the fast-paced field of neighborhood revitalization.

The conference will feature speakers that are influencing efforts to integrate health, education, child welfare, housing, and other issues that affect communities. Participants will gain an understanding of how investments can catalyze and sustain neighborhood revitalization, as well as share best practices for developing the necessary capacity to create conditions for sustainable revitalization efforts. The conference will be held at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. For more information, click [here](#).



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Know Your Marketplace Leverage

It is often presumed through urban policy suggestions and case studies that a good idea or policy can be replicated almost anywhere. Of course some ideas such as bike lanes and trails are applicable in many locations, but this is not always the case. In this article, the author contends that one reason for this problem is that many policy ideas seldom take into account the amount of marketplace leverage a particular place has. Understanding the level of marketplace leverage a city has is critical to evaluating local policies where the results could affect competitive positioning. To read more about market place leverage, click [here](#).

San Antonio Focuses on Brainpower and Collective Impact to Improve its Economy

Municipal and community leaders understand that education is a driving force behind economic development. Serving as a model to other cities, San Antonio is focusing on education to develop and harness skilled talent to improve its economy. For this reason, San Antonio served as host to the National League of Cities' Mayors' Education Policy Advisors Network's (EPAN) 2014 Annual Meeting. At the meeting, advisors from across the country discussed different ways education can serve to reconcile the economic and academic achievement gaps, as well as explore education as a means to ameliorate poverty and foster citywide collaborations. To read more about this conference, click [here](#).

Denver Housing Authority Initiative Joins “Target Cities” in New Era of Urban Leadership

The City of Denver and the Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver (DHA) recently announced its participation in [Target Cities](#), a two-year partnership of nine development projects across seven North American cities designed to amplify and accelerate district-scale community regeneration and create replicable models for next-generation urban revitalization. EcoDistricts – the Portland, Oregon, nonprofit behind Target Cities – announced the partnership as a commitment at CGI America, a program of the Clinton Global Initiative.

The vision for Denver is to transform the entire 100 acre Sun Valley neighborhood and create a district entity that will oversee and carry on the operation of the created district for years to come. As a Target Cities project, the Sun Valley Transformation Initiative will incorporate the central principles behind the EcoDistricts Protocol, which guides the projects through district organization and governance, assessment, implementation, and monitoring. To read more about this collaboration, [click 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

Social Innovation Fund Pay for Success Grants Competition

The Corporation for National and Community Service is pleased to announce the launch of the Social Innovation Fund Pay for Success Grant Competition. Pay for Success is an approach that partners private, public, and nonprofit sectors by aligning payments for social services with verified social outcomes.

The [Social Innovation Fund](#) is about finding solutions that work and making them work for more people. The Pay for Success competition takes this mission to the next level — ensuring proven solutions have the dollars needed to scale, while cities and states with tightening budgets focus on solutions that work and only pay for results. The competition will provide \$11.2 million in grants to help cities, states and nonprofits develop Pay for Success projects, where governments pay service providers only when there are demonstrated results. The funds specifically provide grants for intermediary organizations to help determine feasibility, build capacity, or structure Pay for Success transactions.

Applicants are encouraged to send a letter of intent by July 15, 2014 and applications are due by July 31, 2014 at 5 p.m. EST. [Visit the website](#) to learn more about Pay For Success.



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

INITIATIVE CORNER

Promise Zones Update

The Promise Zones Initiative is part of President Obama's plan to partner with and invest in urban, rural, and tribal communities to create jobs, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, reduce serious and violent crime, leverage private capital and assist local leaders in navigating federal programs and cutting through red tape.

A second round of Promise Zone designations is planned to open for solicitation in 2014. A minimum of five and up to fifteen designations will be made in this round. By the end of 2016, twenty Promise Zone designations are expected.

The public comment period closed on June 16, 2014. All written comments will be taken into account as the Second Round Application Guide is finalized. The [Promise Zone website](#) will be updated regularly, including the Frequently Asked Questions section.

For further updates, please subscribe to the Promise Zone listserv [here](#).

DOL Training and Employment Notice

The Department of Labor has published a new Training and Employment Notice, “Supporting Successful Transition to Adulthood for Current and Former Youth in Foster Care through Coordination with the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.” The purpose of this notice is to inform states and local areas about how Workforce Investment Act (WIA) formula-funded youth programs can assist youth who are currently or were formerly in foster care to complete post-secondary education and training. The notice describes how organizations can coordinate with state and local Independent Living Coordinators to ensure youth have knowledge and access to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, Education and Training Vouchers, and State Tuition Waivers. [Click here](#) to read the notice.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Flash Training Series

The Department of Labor’s Division of Youth Services presents the “Workforce Investment Act Youth Flash Training Series.” These “Flash Trainings” are brief (five minutes or less) lessons focused on specific WIA Youth program topics. They are designed to provide information and direct those working with youth to tools and resources to help them best serve program participants. The first topics in the series include: the 10 WIA Youth Program elements, exit policy, finding youth program resources, waivers, and youth councils. There will be more Flash Trainings coming soon. If you have any questions or suggestions on future topics, please contact us: youth.services@dol.gov. [Click here](#) to access the entire series.

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

The Overwhelming Persistence of Neighborhood Poverty

There are few issues among urban policy academics as contentious as gentrification. Despite all the public debate around the subject, urban poverty remains profound and concentrated. According to a [new study](#) from Joseph Cortright of the economic consulting firm Impresa and Portland State doctoral student Dillon Mahmoudi, high-poverty areas rarely transform with any real dramatic reductions in poverty rates. The study compared neighborhood-level poverty rates in the country's 51 largest metro areas in 1970 and 2010, focusing on changes in the Census tracts within a 10 mile radius around the urban core. The study found that deep-rooted poverty was just about the most consistent thing among these neighborhoods and only a small fraction of neighborhoods had turned around in a way that could be called gentrification. To read the article, click [here](#).

Milwaukee Neighborhoods Make Progress through BNCP, Despite Challenges

[This article](#) describes how the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) has fostered resident engagement and community building in two Milwaukee neighborhoods. Metcalfe Park and Amani are among eight neighborhoods in four U.S. cities chosen to receive technical assistance aimed at catalyzing community-driven change. Leaders of the program in both neighborhoods acknowledge that the work is slow and difficult, but say they have made progress. Both communities have seen an uptick in resident engagement and improved relationships with the Milwaukee Police Department, the lead agency in the federal grant. Further, both are working on ways to engage young people in their neighborhoods in positive activities that will promote their growth into healthy adults.

7 Cities Where Poor Neighborhoods Bucked the Trend and Became Wealthier

Since 1980, the nation's poorest neighborhoods have remained mostly unchanged while high-income areas have seen a healthy amount of growth. The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland has new research exploring the stagnant growth in pockets of concentrated poverty and why it still persists. While most poor neighborhoods have remained stuck in poverty, there are some cities that have been able to buck this trend. This article addresses the question of why some low-income neighborhoods have seen growth while others see very little. Read more about the research provided by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, [here](#). To read the article, click [here](#).

Will This Be the Decade of Big City Growth?

For the first third of this decade, big city population growth continues to outpace the rates of 2000 through 2010, according to [new data](#) released by the Census Bureau. It raises the question, is this city growth revival here to stay? Or, is it a lingering symptom of the recession, mortgage meltdown and the plight of still-stuck-in-place young adults? The new statistics, which update city populations through July 2013, give some credence to both theories. To read more click [here](#).