



# Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

Issue 48 | March 2016

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant Applicants**

The FY2015/2016 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant [applicant list](#) is now posted on the Choice Neighborhoods website.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Technical Assistance on Violence Reduction**

Cities United is offering [technical assistance](#) on reducing violence among African American males to its member cities. Their website also provides [best practices](#) on violence reduction that can be accessed by the general public.

### **Treasury Announces Additional Funding for the Hardest Hit Fund Program**

The U.S. Department of Treasury [announced](#) it would exercise its authority to obligate up to \$2 billion in additional Troubled Asset Relief Program funds to the Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) program. The additional investment in HHF will enable participating state Housing Finance Agencies (HFAs) to continue assisting struggling homeowners and stabilizing neighborhoods. The fifth round of HHF funding will be allocated among participating HFAs in two phases of \$1 billion each. States receiving additional funds will have until December 31, 2020 to utilize their HHF funds.

## EVENTS AND TOOLS

### **Recorded Webinar and Guide on Creative Placemaking in Transportation**

Transportation for America released a [resource guide](#) to introduce creative placemaking to transportation planners, public works agencies, and local elected officials who are on the front lines of advancing transportation projects. A [webinar](#) on the same topic features Transportation for America and placemaking experts.

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### National Housing Conference Paper on Anchor Institutions

The National Housing Conference has released a [new white paper](#) that examines the role of anchor institutions, such as universities and hospitals, in restoring neighborhoods. Anchor institutions can take on a variety of roles—from community infrastructure builder to purchaser of local goods and services to developer of real estate. With the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), nonprofit hospitals and other health care institutions have new obligations and opportunities to embrace their role as community anchors. This brief describes those opportunities and provides specific guidance for how affordable housing and community development organizations can successfully partner with anchor institutions to improve neighborhoods and expand housing opportunities.

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

### SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

*On September 28, 2015, 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.*

The Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento and the City of Sacramento were awarded a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to place the River District-Railyards area and its people back into the network of the city – physically, economically and socially.



*An aerial view of the Railyards area, adjacent to the Twin Rivers public housing development and part of the larger River District-Railyards revitalization.*

As the western terminus of the First Transcontinental Railroad, the River District-Railyards area was once the hub for industrial, warehousing, and distribution activities in the region. But as other modes of transportation became available, the area steadily declined. Supported by an FY2011 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, the Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento, the City, the community, and their partners have designed a neighborhood Transformation Plan. Under this plan, the Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento and their development partner will replace the 218 public housing units at Twin

Rivers with 487 mixed-income housing units in the neighborhood. The plan also leverages the Regional Transit and Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency's commitment to build a new light rail station by establishing nearby, transit-oriented development.

In conjunction with this development, the City and its partners will oversee a focused set of neighborhood improvements, including increasing transit options and enhancing the Sacramento River Parkway. Additionally, the Transformation Plan creates opportunities and supports for Twin Rivers families to attain jobs in high-growth industries and improve their health. Further, the local School District will collaborate with a newly hired Education Specialist to increase the number of Twin Rivers children participating in early education, offer tutoring for students falling behind, provide households with wrap-around supports, and strengthen STEM curriculum.

[Previous Newsletters](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Choice Neighborhoods](#)

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

We hope that you will want to continue receiving information from HUD. We safeguard our lists and do not rent, sell, or permit the use of our lists by others, at any time, for any reason. Connect with HUD on [Social Media](#) and follow Secretary Castro on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

If you wish to be taken off this mail list, please [go here](#).