



# Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Choice Neighborhoods Conference Report**

For new and continuing grantees, the Choice Neighborhoods office would like to remind grantees of the availability of the [Choice Neighborhoods Conference Report: Transformation from Vision to Reality](#). This practical report captures key best practices and lessons that experts and grantees shared at the March 2016 Choice Neighborhoods Grantee Conference. Topics include financing tools for redevelopment, strategies for stabilizing distressed and vacant properties, community engagement, enhancing community safety, improving resident outcomes, and more. This report as well as Promising Practice Guides, videos, and other materials can be found on the Choice Neighborhoods [technical assistance webpage](#).

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Funding for Reentry Supportive Programming to Reduce Recidivism**

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is seeking applications for the [Second Chance Act Smart Reentry Program](#). DOJ expects to make up to five awards of \$1 million over 3 years. The award has a planning and an implementation component, and requires state or local governments to collaborate with a research institution or university for 'action-research' and to ensure participant outcome tracking. The deadline to [apply](#) is March 14, 2017.

### **Grants to Support Lead Hazard Reduction**

HUD released NOFAs for the [Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program](#) (LHRD) and the [Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program](#) (LBHC). Both programs provide funding for local governments to identify and remediate lead based paint hazards in privately owned rental or owner occupied housing. The programs are similar except that the LHRD program targets urban jurisdictions that have at least 3,500 occupied rental housing units constructed before 1940. State, county, local, tribal and special district governments are eligible to apply. Awards range from \$1 million to \$3 million. The deadline to apply is March 23, 2017.

### **Funding for Library and Museum Partnerships for Community Development**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced a new [grant opportunity](#) as part of its [Community Catalyst Initiative](#). IMLS is accepting proposals to test and develop collaborative approaches for museums and libraries to bring about positive

community change. Libraries, museums, nonprofits with experience in archiving library or museum projects, and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. Awards will range from \$25,000 to \$150,000; a one-to-one cost share is required. The deadline to [apply](#) is April 3, 2017.

## EVENTS AND TOOLS

### **Practitioner Dialogue about Building Partnerships for Crime Reduction**

The U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) will host an in-person conversation with police chiefs, prosecutors, resident-leaders and federal officials about successful collaborative strategies to put our most distressed communities on a path to safety and economic opportunity. Featured voices will include leaders in the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program. The event will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Washington, DC. Seating is limited, [RSVP](#) to attend.

### **Webinar on Proactive Approaches to Code Enforcement**

The Center for Community Progress will host a webinar to explore more effective and efficient approaches to code enforcement that go beyond inspections and notices. Using real world examples from around the country, this module will equip participants with an overview of the pros and cons of various code enforcement strategies and how to implement a more strategic approach. The webinar will take place on Thursday, April 27 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. ET, [registration](#) is \$45.

### **Community Benefits Agreement Toolkit**

The Partnership for Working Families released a [Toolkit](#) to help communities develop a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) – a contract requiring a developer to provide community amenities to offset negative impacts of a new development. The Toolkit includes [case studies](#), a [library](#) of existing agreements, and [common challenges](#) to avoid.

### **Tools to Encourage Effective Cross-Sector Data Sharing**

An [article](#) from the National League of Cities describes the benefits of cross-sector data sharing to overcome silos and identify underlying challenges. Featuring the Cincinnati Children's Hospital, a key partner of the Cincinnati Avondale Choice Neighborhood, this article describes how building data sharing relationships is core to [All In: Data for Community Health](#), a nationwide learning collaborative. The article also links to additional tools and data resources.

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### **Guide to Kitchen and Farm Incubator Programs**

The National League of Cities released a [municipal action guide](#) on kitchen and farm incubator programs to strengthen local health food systems and encourage entrepreneurship. The guide includes an introduction to incubator programs, concrete actions local governments can take to encourage the creation of incubator programs, and examples of successful projects.

### **Using Art and Culture for Community Development**

The ShelterForce [winter edition](#) explores art, culture & community development. This issue includes the latest findings and industry trends around creative place-making, partnering with artists, and preserving and celebrating cultural heritage while avoiding displacement.

**New Study Shows Increased Reading Time Helps Latino Children Excel in Math**  
Child Trends [released](#) a research publication titled *Making Math Count More for Young Latino Children*. Research found that Latino children's math skills trail white peers by 3 months but this gap can be closed by enrolling children in center-based child care, having more children's books at home, and developing children's executive functioning skills.

## SPOTLIGHT: Innovative Health Partnership in San Antonio

The San Antonio Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grantee, San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA), and their People Implementation Entity, Urban Strategies Inc. (Urban Strategies), are taking an innovative approach to providing healthcare access to residents. In working with former residents of the Wheatley Courts public housing development, Urban Strategies discovered that a significant number of residents were using the emergency room as their only source of medical care. For some residents, a lack of health insurance prevented access to care, but even residents with Medicaid or Medicare often reported difficulty affording co-pays for visits or filling prescriptions. In response, SAHA and Urban Strategies developed a unique partnership with the

University of the Incarnate Word Ila Faye Miller School of Nursing and Health Professionals (UIW). Through the partnership with UIW, faculty and nursing students visit the former public housing residents at home, provide health assessments and connect residents with health services, including home-visit examinations, care coordination, pharmacy services, diabetes education, and behavioral health counseling.



Figure 1: Nurse Linda Hook with residents from Wheatley Courts.

The idea of a partnership started through a series of conversations between Urban Strategies staff and Mrs. Linda Hook, RN, MSN, an Instructor with UIW Nursing School. Urban Strategies' Project Manager, Alicia Walter, suggests other Choice Neighborhoods interested in establishing similar partnerships should identify someone at their local university who understands the barriers that prevent low-income communities from accessing healthcare. Alicia Walter and colleague Olga Garza Kauffman worked with UIW to negotiate an MOU with the Dean of the Nursing School to bring the needed services to residents. The two agencies negotiated a formal memorandum of agreement to provide these support services to 99 target housing resident families for one year for \$79,000.

Within the first two months of the partnership, 24 residents received a comprehensive health assessment and plan, and 6 eligible residents were connected with the Texas

Healthy Woman program. During this initial period, Urban Strategies learned that the health challenges experienced by residents were more complex than anticipated, so staff have aligned additional resources and services to ensure residents receive proper follow-up care. The nursing faculty found that a majority of families had untreated mental health problems, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and asthma. These findings have prompted additional requests for support from the School of Pharmacy, School of Optometry and Community Health Education program to help residents with links to other UIW resources. The efforts of UIW and Urban Strategies have brought further attention to resident health needs. Additional agreements are being negotiated including the possibility of on-site medical services at the neighborhood community school directly across from the revitalized housing.



Figure 2: Ms. Contreras

One of the residents who received health services through the UIW partnership, Ms. Contreras, was not receiving proper treatment for her diabetes and depression before she started the program. In sharing her experience, Ms. Contreras explained, “This program really helped me a lot, especially Dr. Lavin. Her counseling sessions made me realize that I was depressed even though I kept telling everybody I was not depressed. She really helped me to be realistic and take care of myself because my family needed me. I was able to get back on a diet and I started exercising and I lost weight. They also referred me to the Texas Healthy Woman Program and they got me on CareLink. I am now taking care of my diabetes and taking all my medications...I feel so much better now that I am taking care of myself and my family.”

For Urban Strategies, their experience with UIW has underscored the importance of health and access to healthcare as a critical foundation to help families become stable and thrive. Residents with untreated health problems have much greater difficulty maintaining employment or pursuing education or workforce training programs. In addition to improving health outcomes, providing these health services has improved lines of communication and increased trust between Urban Strategies staff and residents.

UIW has also found the partnership to be mutually beneficial. Through this partnership, UIW has been able to provide their students with opportunities to learn about the health needs of extremely low-income residents and better understand some of the barriers that prevent healthcare access. As outlined in this [issue brief](#) by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, research has shown that housing is a social determinant of health. Institutions of higher education, especially medical schools, have become increasingly interested in developing partnerships with housing providers to address health-related challenges.

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