



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

Issue 60 | May 2017

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUD's 2017 Father's Day Initiative to Help Improve Children's Outcomes

HUD encourages PHAs to organize Father's Day events for fathers of children living in HUD-assisted housing. Events can be hosted anytime during the month of June, ranging from a casual cookout to a fair with information about job training opportunities and healthy living. PHAs and multifamily property owners are encouraged to form local partnerships with health departments and service providers to help promote and organize their events. Father's Day activities can bring families together and help improve families' quality of life. To view examples of past events or to register your event, [click here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Public Housing Re-Entry Technical Assistance Opportunity

The [Vera Institute of Justice](#) (Vera) is soliciting applications from public housing authorities who would benefit from nine months of free technical assistance to plan and implement reentry programs or change their policies to safely increase access to housing for people with juvenile records and/or adult criminal records. Vera will select a handful of housing authorities from those who apply. Questions about this solicitation should be directed to Kate Finley, Program Associate, at kfinley@vera.org or 212-376-5206. Interested public housing authorities must [apply](#) by May 12, 2017.

Funding for Promoting Resiliency After Civil Unrest

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications to assist high-risk youth and families in communities that have recently faced civil unrest. Funding can be used for community youth engagement programs, violence prevention programs, or to support trauma-informed behavioral health services. Grant award maximum is \$1 million. At least 3 grants will be awarded. Local municipalities that have recently faced civil unrest and are partnering with community-based organizations are eligible to apply. [Applications](#) are due by May 17, 2017.

Small Grants for Cultural Heritage Preservation through Community Engagement

The National Endowment for the Humanities is seeking applicants for the Common Heritage program, which supports activities to first collect and digitize cultural heritage materials and stories and then hold public events to expand understanding of a community's heritage. Grant award maximum is \$12,000. Local governments, nonprofits

and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. [Applications](#) are due by June 1, 2017.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Webinar on Transition Strategies for Expiring LIHTC Properties

Enterprise Community Partners is hosting a webinar on Wednesday, May 17th at 2:00 pm ET about planning for year 15 when the LIHTC compliance period ends. The webinar will examine two hypothetical case studies and discuss disposition strategies, review partnership provisions including rights of first refusal, purchase options, exit taxes and preservation of affordability. [Register](#) for webinar login information.

New Fiscal Mapping Tool for Programs Engaging Disconnected Youth

Jobs for the Future released a new [fiscal mapping tool](#) for communities that seek to support and align place-based efforts for disconnected youth ages 14-24. The tool describes over 120 programs across 7 federal agencies, and provides information on how communities can map federal resources in their neighborhoods, coordinate efforts, and close funding gaps. This free tool can be accessed by [registering here](#). Jobs for the Future also recorded a [webinar](#) that explains how to use the tool.

Juntos Somos Mas: Together We Are More – NALCAB Training

The National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB) will host a national training event focused on equitable neighborhood development, increasing family financial capacity and supporting small business development. The training will take place in Dallas, TX, June 12-15. [Registration](#) is now open.

Toolkit on Using Collective Impact for Community Engagement

The Collective Impact Forum released a Community Engagement Toolkit to help leaders in the public, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors use community engagement to support and enhance data-driven outcomes. The [toolkit](#) includes questions for reflection, tools to assess current engagement processes, and step-by-step instructions to develop a more effective community engagement approach.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Neighborhoods by Numbers – How to Use Small Area Data Sources

The Center for Community Progress' new publication, [Neighborhoods by Numbers](#), shows how communities can effectively use data to shape planning and revitalization decisions. This easy-to-use, color-coded book walks readers through how to find, understand and use key local and national datasets, with a special focus on the use of data for small areas like properties, blocks and neighborhoods.

Research Evidence Connecting Urban Blight with Public Health

The Urban Institute released a [new report](#) that synthesizes recent studies on the complexities of how blight affects the health of individuals and neighborhoods. The report includes program recommendations on how communities can use health impact assessments, track health outcomes, and infuse public health into housing policies, codes and practices.

Illustrative Novel Engages Chicago Youth in Planning

This [article](#) describes how the Chicago Architecture Foundation engaged Chicago youth in neighborhood planning by designing a graphic novel that showcased stories about their own neighborhoods.

SPOTLIGHT

New Orleans Hospitality Training Program: Creating Pathways to Employment by Tailoring Training & Section 3 Opportunities

The City of New Orleans and the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) received a \$30.5 million Implementation Grant in 2011 for the Iberville-Tremé neighborhood. The Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan includes replacing Iberville's 821 distressed public housing units with high quality mixed-income units, revitalizing the surrounding neighborhood, and improving resident outcomes. One of the issues identified early in the resident and community engagement process was a lack of job training programs with successful placement. HANO's People Lead Partner, Urban Strategies and development partner, HRI Properties, LLC (HRI), identified an opportunity to fulfill Section 3 requirements in a way that would meet residents' needs. HRI and its hotel management subsidiary, HRI Lodging, LLC (HRI), developed a previously vacant electrical supply warehouse site into a Homewood Suites hotel. Knowing the project would provide 90 new jobs in the community, Urban Strategies collaborated with HRI and HRI to design and deliver a customized training curriculum to prepare HANO residents to interview for those positions.

The program also served as a creative approach to comply with Section 3 requirements while offering opportunities beyond construction jobs. Many HANO residents are female heads-of-household and many indicated an interest in seeking employment outside of

the construction and trade-related fields. Hospitality positions would offer residents an alternative Section 3 opportunity and a potential pathway for growth. According to a recent [survey](#) of 400,000 hotel professionals, more than half of hotel general managers and over half of department managers began their hotel careers in hourly entry-level positions.

The Homewood Suites Hospitality Training Program took place at the newly opened Bienville Basin Technology Center powered by Dell, and classes were co-facilitated by Urban Strategies staff and HRI Lodging staff. The curriculum was designed for public housing residents with little or no professional work experience, as an introduction to the hospitality industry with a special focus on improving soft-skills critical to success. Topics



Figure 1: HRI Lodging staff present on keys to success in the hospitality industry.

included communication skills, customer service, time management and handling stress, being proactive in the workplace and teamwork/collaboration. The training also helped participants to develop personal and professional goals, a personal vision and a mission statement. Managers and executives at various hotels were brought in to speak to the trainees and share their stories of starting in an entry-level position and working their way up to a senior role. In addition to providing motivation, this access provided participants with a unique opportunity to ask about day-to-day work life, workplace challenges and what it takes for them to succeed. A job-shadowing component was required for completion to help participants feel more comfortable in the professional hospitality environment.

The last two weeks of the training focused on resume and interview preparation along with job shadowing opportunities in each participant's area of interest, which included maintenance, housekeeping and front desk support. All participants were provided with two opportunities to interview, once at the Homewood Suites Job Fair and later during the training with HRIL's HR department.

Participants were recruited through HANO and Choice Neighborhoods caseworkers, with a special priority for former Iberville residents. For the pilot program, 13 participants were enrolled in the training, and five were hired. As of 60 days after the training, all five new hires are currently working and have provided positive feedback on their placement. One participant, Keshone Encalade, shared that "HANO, Urban Strategies and HRI have all played a very beneficial role in my life that I will forever be thankful for. The class I enrolled in was just the stepping stone to a bright future." Ms. Encalade graduated from the training and is currently a Sales Coordinator at the Homewood Suites New Orleans French Quarter. Since completion of the training, another Iberville resident has been hired, who has been an active resident leader. Urban Strategies and HRI will continue to look for additional opportunities to offer paid positions to current and former Iberville residents.



Figure 2: Pilot class of the Homewood Suites Hospitality Training Program

The curriculum will be revised based on feedback from participants and the employer and is tentatively scheduled to be delivered again in the Fall. Urban Strategies hopes more Iberville residents will participate now that the hotel has

opened and thanks to positive word-of-mouth promotion about the program. HRI Lodging intends to adapt the curriculum for use in other markets with new developments, such as a \$120 million mixed-use hotel project in downtown Tampa, FL. By working with a strong job partner, Urban Strategies could deliver a training opportunity specifically informed by the needs of the employer and achieve strong placement outcomes for residents.

[Previous Newsletters](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Choice Neighborhoods](#)

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