



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Tool to Calculate Choice Neighborhoods Section 8 Cost Controls

Last year, HUD developed the new [Cost Control and Safe Harbor Standards for Section 8 Projects](#) for projects which include Choice Neighborhoods funding for Section 8 units through Project Based Vouchers or Project Based Rental Assistance. The Section 8 Cost Control and Safe Harbor Standards document included some new provisions, such as a section on calculating the maximum amount of Choice Neighborhoods funds HUD will approve for unit development and a safe harbor range for debt coverage ratios. Recently, the Choice Neighborhoods office has released a [new tool](#) to help calculate Section 8 cost control and safe harbor standards. Should you have any questions, please contact your Choice Neighborhoods Team Coordinator.

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Awards

On September 26, 2016, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) [announced](#) about \$8 million in Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) awards to 10 communities impacted by persistent violent and serious crime. BJA awarded 5 three-year planning and implementation grants, as well as 5 implementation-only grants to communities who have already completed a BCJI planning processes. Two of the planning and implementation BCJI awards target Choice Neighborhoods in Shreveport, LA and Baltimore, MD.

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Webinar and Website

LISC, the technical assistance provider for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) program, has launched a new BCJI [website](#) that includes information about BCJI grantees, webinars, tools, and other public safety resources. One of the site's [webinars](#) will be hosted on November 10 and will focus on using a trauma-informed approach to improve community safety.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Technical Assistance Scholarship to Address Vacancy

The Center for Community Progress is seeking applicants for the next round of their Technical Assistance Sponsorship Program (TASP). Three successful applicants will receive 400 hours of free technical assistance to assess, reform, develop, and/or implement systems to address large-scale vacancy and abandonment in their

communities, and two additional communities will receive free assessments. Municipal agencies are eligible to apply. The deadline to [apply](#) is November 17, 2016 at 3pm.

Community Foods Project (CFP) Competitive Grant Program

The USDA is offering a total of \$8.6 million for Community Food Projects and Planning Projects. One of the goals of the award is to meet the nutritional needs of low-income individuals through food distribution programs, strengthening connections to Federally assisted nutrition programs, and by improving access to food. Award maximums are \$125,000 for the Community Food Project and \$35,000 for the Planning Project. Only nonprofits are eligible to apply. The deadline to [apply](#) is November 30, 2016.

AmeriCorps State and National Grants

The Corporation for National and Community Service is offering funding for AmeriCorps slots. Last year 327 awardees received \$218 million in funding. Typically successful applicants are funded for between 20 and 50 AmeriCorps member slots. Nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations, PHAs, School Districts, Private Institutions of Higher Education and local governments are eligible to apply. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit notification of intent to [apply](#) by December 7, 2016. Applications are due January 18, 2017.

Funding for Community Reading Initiative

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is offering grants to engage older youth and adults in reading through the [NEA Big Read](#). Approximately 75 grants will be awarded to support community reading programs designed around a single book in the [NEA Big Read library](#), with themes such as racism, immigration, work, art, and family relationships. Grants range from \$5,000-\$20,000 and grantees are provided with outreach materials and training. Eligible applicants include housing authorities, nonprofits, school districts, and local governments. A [webinar](#) about the books will be held on November 16, 2016. [Applications](#) are due by January 26, 2017.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Webinar on Asset Mapping for Economic Resilience

On November 15, 2016, the International Economic Development Council is hosting a webinar on mapping the assets in a community. Participants will gain strategies for asset mapping and data collection and learn how asset mapping can be used to diversify a community's economy and more effectively use resources. [Click here](#) to register.

NeighborWorks Training Institute

In Washington, DC, December 12-16, 2016, NeighborWorks is holding their annual Training Institute. The Training Institute will offer over 100 courses on a variety of topics relating to affordable housing and community development. [Click here](#) to view course offerings and register.

How Housing Matters Conference

In Washington DC, on December 13, 2016, the National Housing Conference, the Urban Institute, HUD, and the Urban Land Institute will host the How Housing Matters conference. Through a day of plenary sessions, discussion panels and networking, this year's conference will focus on breaking down barriers between the housing, health, education and economic opportunity fields to improve life outcomes for residents. [Click](#)

[here](#) to register and learn more.

Recorded Webinar on Arts/Place-Making in Chicago

The interagency initiative, Community Solutions - Community of Practice recently posted a recorded webinar entitled, [The Arts Block: A Case Study on Ethical Redevelopment](#). This webinar showcases how arts-based, revitalization projects are being used as an economic engine in Chicago's disinvested South Side and how people-first ethical principles guided this development.

Recorded Webinar Series on Connecting Families with Healthcare

HHS posted [five webinars](#) about innovative solutions to connect individuals and families with affordable, quality health care and preventative services. The webinar series covers topics from connecting consumers to year round access to connecting hard to reach populations.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Aging in Place Design Guide

Enterprise Green Communities developed a [Design Guide](#) for senior housing that includes best practices for both new construction and renovations, with a focus on how design can help seniors age in place.

Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Case Studies

MZ Strategies published a [white paper](#) highlighting emerging equitable Transit-Oriented Development (eTOD) best practices from four regions – Minneapolis-St. Paul, Los Angeles, Seattle and Denver. The paper also includes a selection of tools and policies that promote eTOD through public, nonprofit and private sector partnerships.

Data Walks: An Innovative Way to Share Data with Communities

Urban Institute produced a report describing a community engagement strategy to share data with residents called a [Data Walk](#). In addition to educating residents, a Data Walk strengthens analysis, better informs programming, and serves as a platform for engagement and collective action.

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