



Choice Neighborhoods

e-news about transforming housing, people and neighborhoods

Issue 64 | September 2017

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FY 2017 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant NOFA Released

The NOFA for the FY17 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants has been posted on Grants.gov. Applications are due by **Wednesday, November 22, 2017**. This NOFA makes available up to \$132,000,000 for Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants. Implementation Grants support those communities that have undergone a comprehensive local planning process and are ready to implement their plan to redevelop the distressed public and/or assisted housing and neighborhood. The Lead Applicant must be a Public Housing Agency (PHA), a local government, or a tribal entity. If there is also a Co-Applicant, it must be a PHA, a local government, a tribal entity, or the owner of the target HUD-assisted housing (e.g. a nonprofit or for-profit developer). The local government of jurisdiction, or tribe for applications that target Indian Housing, must be the Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant. Applications must present a plan to revitalize a severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted multifamily housing project located in a distressed neighborhood into a viable, mixed-income community. Potential applicants should download the NOFA and related forms from the Grants.gov website. Questions can be sent to ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov. Additional information, including a mapping tool, can be found on the [Choice Neighborhoods website](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding Available for Family Self-Sufficiency Program

HUD is accepting applications for limited additional funding from PHAs currently administering a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, that have served the minimum number of families and FSS funding in FY14 – FY16. The FSS program promotes the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs with public and private resources to enable participating families to increase earned income and financial literacy, reduce or eliminate the need for welfare assistance, and make progress toward economic independence and self-sufficiency. [Applications](#) are due September 15, 2017.

African American Civil Rights (AACR) Preservation and History Grants

The National Park Service is accepting applications for projects to document and preserve sites related to the African American struggle to gain equal rights. This funding can be used to support historical placemaking efforts to strengthen community identity, celebrate heritage, and commemorate community history. [Preservation Grants](#) range from \$75,000 - \$500,000. Smaller [History Grants](#) are also available for the survey, inventory, documentation and education related to civil rights historical sites. Applications for both are due September 29, 2017.

Resident Opportunity & Self-Sufficiency NOFA Available

The FY 2017 [Resident Opportunity & Self-Sufficiency \(ROSS\) NOFA](#) was published on August 24. This NOFA will make \$35M available for service coordinators to assess resident needs and link residents to supportive services that increase earned income and self-sufficiency. [Applications](#) due October 23, 2017.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Webinar on Regional Food Systems for Small Business Development

Connecting Communities is hosting a webinar on September 14 at 3:00pm EST to explore how regional food systems drive entrepreneurial activity and small-business development. Speakers will discuss technical support that can be provided to entrepreneurs, as well as creative tools for financing regional food enterprises. Register [here](#).

Connecting the Dots – a Guide to Federal Funding for Cradle-to-Career Initiatives

Jobs for the Future released a [new online tool](#) to help communities understand the purpose and key characteristics of over 120 programs, across 7 different federal agencies, that can support place-based cradle-to-career initiatives. Depending on a community's needs, it can provide a starting point for mapping currently leveraged resources, identifying additional funding streams, and providing details on whether and how to pursue those other opportunities.

Federal Financing Toolkit

Smart Growth America released their 2017 Federal Financing Toolkit which includes 90 federal financing opportunities that are designed to help real estate developers and investors as well as local elected officials achieve their development goals. [The Toolkit](#) is free for LOCUS members or available for \$60 to non-members.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Using Secondary Data to Improve Access to Neighborhoods of Opportunity

The Urban Institute released a [guide](#) to walk readers through where to find and how to use secondary data resources to improve their own program planning and gain a better understanding of neighborhood conditions.

How to Help Residents Build Credit

Consumer Finance recently published a [report](#) on ways people without a credit history can start building one, and [recommended](#) three easy ways community organizations can help residents build credit.

SPOTLIGHT

Philadelphia's Resident-Led After-School Program

The City of Philadelphia and the Housing Authority of Philadelphia received a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant for \$30 million in 2014 for the North Central Philadelphia neighborhood, including the complete revitalization of the Norris Homes public housing development. Philadelphia's [Transformation Plan](#) also focused significantly on improving educational outcomes for children. One of the programs making strides toward this goal is the Norris Afterschool Program, a resident-led after-school program created in a partnership between anchor institution, Temple University and the Norris Community Resident Council, Inc. (NCRC).

The program was formed by four women living in Norris Homes who wanted to help children in the community. Mrs. Richardson, founder and program administrator, explained that there had been another program in place that wasn't working. Her alternative program started out small, run by volunteers living at Norris Homes who knew the children and their teachers, but expanded when they began providing meals for the kids. Through a partnership with Temple University, the program has expanded and has hired Norris residents as staff and administrators. Temple University provides professional development for the staff once a month, training residents on healthy behavioral management techniques, strategies for interactive learning, demonstration lessons, and other topics. Additionally, the University places Education students at the after-school center as volunteers and interns, some of whom also work as student teachers in the children's schools. Temple also provides financial support and in-kind resources, but has been very intentional to ensure the program continues to be resident-led.



Figure 1: Resident staff and volunteers serve as role-models to Norris children.

Enrollment has grown each semester, beginning with 25 students in the Spring of 2015 and growing to serve 48 students in the Spring of 2017. Program staff have observed significant improvement in the attendance, behavior and test scores of children participating in the program. Mrs. Richardson shared that the children's teachers notice a difference and thank the staff for their efforts. Program staff can track each child's progress because they receive report cards for each child enrolled. This allows staff to

provide more targeted tutoring and support. Mrs. Richardson attributes the program's success to her staff, who genuinely care about the children and their parents. Program staff meet with teachers on behalf of busy parents, find resources for families that are struggling, and work to include and engage every child. The Norris Afterschool Program has succeeded where similar programs have failed because it is resident-led and place-based.

Dr. Meghan Raisch, Ph.D., is the Educational Engagement Specialist at Temple University and has worked closely with Ms. Richardson on the program. She shared five lessons learned in developing this unique partnership, which she describes as a "residents-based model for service delivery of out-of-school time education". "First, it was important to maintain a *contextual understanding* of the larger landscape this partnership emerged from, including the history of the university's engagement in the neighborhood, preexisting relationships between the city agency partners and this community, and the reconstruction and revitalization driving the larger CNI grant. Second, we committed to an agenda of full *transparency* during the initial negotiations and subsequent implementation stages; this became crucial to establishing trust. Third, we co-designed this program by relying on *joint-decision making* at every step in the formation of this partnership, from budgeting and purchasing to staffing and payroll. Fourth, we found that our degree of *responsiveness* to the needs of our community partners was pivotal in creating effective communication and operational systems. Finally, we have been actively focused on the *sustainability* of this program beyond the timeline of the CNI grant, both in terms of securing funding and in generating outcome data that captures these successes." The program has since expanded to provide programming in the summer to prevent learning loss.

[Previous Newsletters](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Choice Neighborhoods](#)

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