

Choice Neighborhoods

monthly news about transforming housing, people, & neighborhoods

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants Application Posted

HUD posted the FY 2021 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) on November 17, 2021. Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support communities that have undertaken a comprehensive local planning process and are ready to implement it. HUD is making available approximately \$218,000,000 for Implementation Grants. The maximum grant award has increased this year to \$50 million. Applications are due on February 15, 2022.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Community Revitalization Fellowship

The Center for Community Progress is providing a learning [opportunity](#) to help grassroots leaders revitalize struggling neighborhoods. Six resident leaders from three communities (eighteen people in total) will be selected as fellows and participate in learning exchanges in each other's communities. Applications are due by Friday, February 25, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) for Radon Testing and Mitigation.

The purpose of the Radon Testing and Mitigation Demonstration for Public Housing grant program is to provide funds to PHAs to conduct testing and as-needed mitigation of radon in the units that they manage and where applicable to support the development of a plan for future radon testing and mitigation. Funding of approximately \$4,000,000 is available through this NOFO and the application deadline is March 28, 2022. Program description, award information and application instructions are available at the [funding opportunities webpage](#) [Radon Testing and Mitigation Demonstration Grant Program](#)

Challenge America, National Endowment for the Arts

[Challenge America](#) grants support small organizations for projects in all artistic disciplines that extend the reach of the arts to populations that are underserved. Project support will start after January 1, 2023. Grants awarded generally cover a period of up to two years. Application deadline: April 21, 2022. Award ceiling/floor: \$10,000.

EVENTS & TOOLS

Free At-Home COVID-19 Rapid Tests

Free at-home COVID-19 rapid tests are available for order and shipment through the United

States Postal Service (USPS) via <http://www.covidtests.gov>. USPS will send one set of 4 free tests to each residential address. You can also order the free test kits by calling 1-800-232-0233. The US government has also begun distributing 400 million [free N95 respirator masks](#) to community health centers and pharmacies. The masks should be available starting early February.

Public Housing Repositioning Webinar Series: Homeownership Programs, Wednesday, February 9, 1:00 P.M. EST

The [webinar](#) will discuss how to assist public housing residents, Housing Choice Voucher clients, and other low-income families in purchasing homes. It will also discuss how to reposition public housing units for affordable homeownership and otherwise expand the supply of homeownership units available for purchase.

National Education Association Network

The National Education Association (NEA) is a national union representing classroom teachers and other education staff. NEA works to improve the public school system, provide professional development opportunities, and engage families and students throughout local communities. NEA lists contact information for each of their [local affiliates](#) for the purpose of developing partnerships. Partnership development with organizations like the NEA is dependent on local dynamics within the school district and should be guided by community needs and desires. Please note that HUD does not endorse any particular NEA action, policy, political belief, or opinion.

Reclaiming Vacant Properties, September 7-9, 2022, Chicago

The Center for Community Progress is hosting a conference with the theme [Responding to Crisis: Building an Equitable and Resilient Future](#). The conference will address the impacts of vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties in the context of COVID-19 and the higher frequency of extreme weather events.

HUD COVID-19 Recovery Webinars

These [webinars and resources](#) provide an overview of how HUD, place-based initiative partners, and federal partners are responding to community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlight their best practices and resources for community-based organizations.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Chronic Absenteeism

[In this brief](#) the National Education Association describes the educational and socioeconomic context of chronic absenteeism and interventions to promote school attendance, including several evidence-based practices.

Trauma-Informed Practices

The National Education Association has compiled [a series of resources on trauma-informed practices](#) that help educators support students, including various scenarios and responses to help students process their emotions.

Details on the Final Rule on American Rescue Plan Act and the State and

Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Grants

This [article](#) from the National League of Cities includes key information for cities and towns on the final rule for ARPA SLFRF grants.

Arts and Culture Work Towards Community Well-Being

The National Endowment for the Arts, the Kresge Foundation and other partners recently published [WE-Making: How Arts & Culture Unite People to Work Toward Community Well-Being](#). The report includes a discussion of the “theory of change,” case studies, a conceptual framework, and a literature review.

Government’s Response to the Eviction Crisis

A recent [presentation](#) from HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research shared information about the state of the U.S. housing market and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on housing stability.

Fort Wayne, Indiana: Posterity Scholar House Provides Affordable Housing and Transportation to Single-Parent Student Households

HUD shared a [case study](#) about Posterity Scholar House, a 44-unit affordable apartment development for single parents and their children. The development was selected to participate in a program that provides access to technical design experts and funding assistance to accomplish the goal of reducing utility and transportation costs for low-income households.

Evaluation of Atlanta’s East Lake Initiative

The Urban Institute published a [report about Atlanta’s East Lake Initiative](#), one of nation’s first efforts to convert public housing into a mixed-income community. They found the initiative led to sizable local changes, including decreases in poverty and increases in income, college degree holding, and home values.

Results from the National Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration

In Mathematica’s assessment of a large-scale random-assignment evaluation, the [National Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration](#), they found that using carrots in place of sticks substantially increased the satisfaction of noncustodial parents with child support services, lowered the amount of support owed, and increased noncustodial parents’ sense of responsibility for their children.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT



2021 marked the tenth anniversary of Choice Neighborhoods. Over the next several issues, we are highlighting three successful grantees who recently completed their Choice Neighborhoods projects: Norwalk, Pittsburgh, and Columbus. We hope these stories will inspire you and reveal what’s possible through engaging public housing residents and community members in revitalization efforts.

Columbus’ Near East Side is one of the city’s most storied neighborhoods and is the heart of

the city's African American community. Poindexter Village was one of Columbus' first public housing projects and the revitalization of the Near East Side represents a rebirth and rebuilding of the community. The mixed-income, multi-generational redevelopment plan builds on the neighborhood's rich community history, strong partnerships, and strategies for education innovation, workforce and economic development, quality housing, and health initiatives that have resulted in a vibrant, healthy community of choice.

In 2011, the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), The Ohio State University, and the City of Columbus joined together to launch Partners Achieving Community Transformation (PACT) to undertake a community-based process to develop a plan to revitalize the Near East Side neighborhood. The neighborhood included the 26-acre site of the Poindexter Village public housing community, a 414-unit development constructed in 1940. HUD awarded Columbus a \$300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to support preparation of the plan. The resulting Blueprint for Community Investment (Blueprint) set the stage for the redevelopment of Poindexter Village as well as complementary investments in economic development, education and human capital development and neighborhood initiatives.

HUD awarded the CMHA a \$29.7 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant in 2014. The implementation grant, along with a large infusion of funding for infrastructure improvements from the City of Columbus, low-income housing tax credits from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, and additional commitments of over \$225 million in funding and programming from more than 45 local organizations, has been a catalyst for redeveloping Poindexter Village and bringing new investment to the neighborhood. The revitalization effort includes many local and national organizations, neighborhood stakeholders, and residents, who have come together to affect real change and create opportunities within the Near East Side area.



Using the Blueprint as a foundation, the Near East Side redevelopment team was led by the CMHA and included the City of Columbus, McCormack Baron Salazar (MBS), Urban Strategies, Columbus City Schools, and PACT. The redevelopment has resulted in 450 new mixed-income, multi-generational units, many for

low-income residents. The redevelopment includes Poindexter Place, 104 units of senior housing, Legacy Pointe at Poindexter, a 336-unit mixed-income family housing development, and 10 market rate units in the former Columbus Early Learning Center, a local historic building.

The new housing also features sustainable and accessible design. The senior building is LEED-certified and universally designed. The family housing units are designed to be certified under the Enterprise Green Communities sustainability standards. The entire community incorporates



LEED for Neighborhood Development standards, with walkable streets, connections to transit and services, bike lanes and on-site amenities like a fitness center, a community room and live/workspace for neighborhood entrepreneurs.



Of the \$225 million in funding and programming invested in the transformational redevelopment, the community and residents have benefitted from \$102 million dedicated to the neighborhood from local leverage and the Choice Neighborhoods grant's Critical Community Improvements Plan for the Near Eastside, which included the development of adult education and

entrepreneurship centers, a new intergenerational development center for seniors and young children, commercial corridor improvements, retail investment, infill for-sale housing, and Poindexter Community Park.

Equally critical to these physical investments, the People component, led by Urban Strategies in partnership with Columbus City Schools, addressed resident needs in healthcare, wellness, education, employment, and kindergarten readiness with a combination of intensive case management, programs, services, and partnerships with local organizations targeted to Poindexter Village and neighborhood residents.

For more information on the Near East Side/Poindexter Choice Neighborhoods grant, [click here](#).

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