



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

Issue 17 • August 2013



ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Obama Unveils Promise Zones Initiative

The Obama Administration recently announced the Promise Zones program, a new initiative in comprehensive community revitalization. Five Promise Zones are expected to be named this year, with a total of 20 designated over the next four years. The federal government will invest in the Promise Zones to create jobs, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, leverage private investment, and reduce violent crime. Each Promise Zone will be required to establish a set of outcomes they will pursue to revitalize their community; to develop a strategy to support those outcomes; and to realign local assets accordingly. Although Promise Zones will not receive direct funding, they will benefit from federal staff support, technical assistance, and preference points when applying for certain federal grant programs. In addition, should Congress enact the proposed Promise Zone tax credits, private businesses could be eligible to receive tax incentives for hiring and investing in Promise Zones. Currently, only communities that have previously been selected for a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant, Promise Neighborhoods Implementation Grant, or Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Implementation and Enhancement Grant are eligible to apply. Click [here](#) for more information on the Promise Zones Initiative. To view the draft qualifying and selection criteria, click [here](#).

PolicyLink and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies to Hold Promise Zones Informational Webinar

This Thursday, August 22, 2013 at 12:00 – 1:30 pm EDT (9:00 – 10:30 am PDT) PolicyLink and The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies will hold a webinar to introduce the Promise Zone Initiative. The webinar will explore the program's potential for tackling complex issues as well as discuss application requirements. The featured speakers will be: Angela Glover Blackwell, Founder and CEO, PolicyLink; Brian Smedly, Vice President and Director, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; Raquel Russell, Deputy Assistance to the President for Urban Affairs & Economic Mobility, White House Domestic Policy Council; and Lisa Cylar Miller, Deputy Director, Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink. Click [here](#) to register.

HUD Seeks Your Input

HUD has an interactive online forum website, [HUD Ideas in Action](#), through which both HUD employees and the public may submit their ideas and feedback. One hot topic is HUD's draft *Strategic Plan 2014-2018*. The Strategic Plan will be the guiding framework for the Department as it will help determine the focus of the organization's work over the next four years. In particular, HUD seeks input on the following questions:

- Do you think the Strategic Plan accurately reflects what HUD needs to accomplish in the upcoming years?
- What strategies should HUD consider in order to reach each goal?
- What specific performance goals would you like to see HUD strive towards?

Your input will contribute to the Department selecting objectives, strategies, and performance goals that reflect the will of its constituents. Please take a moment to visit the forum and submit, vote, or comment on an idea. HUD's [existing Strategic Plan](#) and, [HUDStat](#), the tool HUD uses to track its progress on its strategic goals, are available to the public.



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Resources to Support the Children of Incarcerated Parents

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP), led by the Domestic Policy Council, has launched a [website](#) with resources for service providers, families, and caregivers working to improve outcomes for children whose parents are incarcerated. The COIP working group has also established an official partnership with Sesame Street to raise awareness about the importance of engaging in direct service to this vulnerable population. As part of the partnership, the Sesame Workshop has instituted the [Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration](#) initiative, a compendium of bilingual (English/Spanish) materials including videos and storybooks. The purpose of the initiative is to help support and comfort children trying to cope with the absence of a parent/parents, as well as to provide a tool for the incarcerated parent(s) that highlights the importance of communication between them and their children. Click [here](#) to learn more about the COIP working group.

Department of Labor's Grant Application and Award Database

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has created an online Grant Application and Award Database to serve as a one-stop resource for information about DOL funding opportunities. The database can be used to find out where recent DOL grants were awarded, and to find out about upcoming grant competitions. Currently, only information about grant applicants and awards made after September 1, 2011 is available. Click [here](#) to access the database.

National Endowment for the Arts Grants Workshop

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has made two resources available to assist potential applicants in developing their grant proposals for NEA funding. First, a full list of the 2013 Our Town grant recipients has been posted [here](#). This list includes funding amounts and descriptions of each of the winning projects. Second, in a webcast that can be accessed [here](#), the Deputy Chairman for Program Partnerships, Patrice Walker Powell, gives a detailed overview of available NEA grants and a description of the entities eligible to apply. In September, the NEA will be releasing the Notice of Funding Availability for the FY 2014 Our Town grants; stay tuned to the ["Grants" page](#) of the NEA website for additional information.

Information Sharing Program for Organizations Serving Youth

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, in collaboration with the Juvenile Law Center and the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, has announced that applications are now available for the Information Sharing Certificate Program being held December 9-12, 2013 in Washington, DC. Applications are due September 6, 2013. The Information Sharing Certificate Program is designed to support leaders in the juvenile justice, child welfare, education, behavioral health, and other child-service fields overcome information-sharing challenges that prevent the communication and coordination necessary to better serve youth involved in multiple systems of care. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program.

United Neighborhood Centers of America (UNCA) Conference Materials Available

On June 27-28, 2013, stakeholders from around the country gathered in Washington, D.C. for the 2013 United Neighborhood Centers of America (UNCA) Neighborhood Revitalization conference; the conference was held in partnership with the Alliance for Children and Families. Click [here](#) to view the agenda, conference presentations, handouts, participant roster, and supporting resources. Photos from the conference are also available on the UNCA Facebook page [here](#).

Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Webinar Materials

On July 29, 2013, Nixon Peabody LLP held a webinar outlining HUD's [Rental Assistance Demonstration](#) (RAD). RAD provides financing tools for those managing at-risk public and assisted housing. RAD allows public housing and Moderate Rehabilitation properties to be converted, through a competition limited into 60,000 units, to long term rental assistance contracts. RAD also allows Rent Supplement, Rental Assistance Payment, and Moderate Rehabilitation properties to be converted into tenant-based vouchers issued upon contract expiration or termination to project-based assistance. Click [here](#) to view the Nixon Peabody webinar. For more information on RAD, click [here](#) to view HUD's July 12th webcast on Expanded Flexibilities in the RAD program.

Resources for Children Returning to School

The [National Center for Summer Learning](#) at Johns Hopkins University has found that, on average, students who do not engage in summer learning activities lose the equivalent of two months' worth of grade-level math and reading skills.¹ The nonprofit organization GreatSchools has compiled a compendium of resources for parents to help address this issue. The resources include a [list](#) of helpful tips, a [synopsis](#) of different online e-learning platforms, and a [list](#) of summer learning activities for children of all ages. In addition, GreatSchools offers an [online tool](#) to help parents locate a quality local school. This tool might be particularly useful to Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) households while they are researching neighborhoods to live in or exploring better school options for their child. Click [here](#) to learn more about the GreatSchools organization.

Please give us your feedback!

We work diligently to make this e-newsletter relevant to your work. Please submit Grantee feature articles, constructive feedback, story ideas, and funding announcements to: choicetaenewsletter@bctpartners.com.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Cities of Service Grants for High-Impact Volunteering

Bloomberg Philanthropies has announced a new \$1 million Impact Volunteering Fund. Cities have the opportunity to apply for grants between \$25,000 and \$100,000 to support projects in the areas of education and youth, health, neighborhood revitalization, preparedness and safety, sustainability, or veterans affairs. Only mayors of cities who are members of the [Cities of Service Coalition](#) are eligible to apply on behalf of their city and its partner(s). An online [Verification of Eligibility](#) must be completed by Friday, September 6, 2013, and the final application must be received by Friday, September 13, 2013. Click [here](#) for more information, including how to join the Cities of Service Coalition.

Economic Development Assistance Program Grants

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) of U.S. Department of Commerce has announced a competition for its FY 2014 Economic Development Assistance Programs (EDAP) grant. Nonprofit organizations; institutions of higher education; district organizations; and state, local, and tribal governments are eligible to apply. EDAP aims to foster job creation and attract private investment to support development in economically distressed areas. The final funding amounts will not be known until Congress passes the FY 2014 appropriations act; however, EDA expects funding levels for FY 2014 to be similar to those in FY 2012—approximately \$1.4 million in funds for grants ranging in size from \$200,000 to \$3,000,000. The deadline to apply for funding cycle 1 of FY 2014 is September 13, 2013. Click [here](#) to read the full funding announcement.

Funding to Support School/Parent Collaborations

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has announced \$5 million in funds for public K-12 schools and school parent-teacher groups associated with public schools to support the development of projects that encourage parent involvement and build a stronger sense of community. Grants will be between \$2,000 and \$5,000 per school with a preference for funding requests that have sustained impact such as a facility enhancement or landscaping/clean-up projects. Examples of potential projects include reading gardens, vegetable gardens, parent involvement centers, peer tutoring centers, playgrounds, and rotating student art exhibits. The deadline for submissions is October 15; however, the application process will close if 1,500 applications are received before the deadline. Click [here](#) for more information.



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

CORNER

Health Centers to Help Uninsured Americans Enroll in Affordable Health Care

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced that \$150 million in grant awards will be made to 1,159 health centers across the nation to enroll uninsured Americans in new health coverage options made available by the Affordable Care Act. These funds will allow health centers to hire an additional 2,900 outreach and eligibility assistance workers to assist millions of people nationwide with enrollment into affordable health coverage. In noting the significance of these funds, Secretary

Sebelius said, “Investing in health centers means that people in neighborhoods and towns across the country have one more resource to help them understand their insurance options and enroll in affordable coverage.” Click [here](#) to read the press release.

Do you have a Technical Assistance (TA) Question, Request, or Suggestion?

Grantees with TA questions or requests, or a suggestion for an upcoming TA activity, are invited to submit them to BCT and HUD at hud.gov/choiceta.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

***Evidence Matters* Highlights Mixed-Income Communities**

In the current issue of their online magazine *Evidence Matters*, HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research offers three articles outlining both the benefits and challenges of creating a mixed income community. First, [Confronting Concentrated Poverty with a Mixed-Income Strategy](#) offers statistical and anecdotal evidence on why mixed-income communities are becoming increasingly prominent and how low-income families benefit from them. In [Mixed-Income Community Dynamics](#), detailed ethnographic interviews are used to document the ways that residents experience their transition into living in more economically diverse surroundings. Finally, [Inclusionary Zoning and Mixed-Income Communities](#) outlines several ways that inclusionary zoning can be structured to promote mixed-income neighborhoods; it also provides case studies of how inclusionary zoning has been used successfully in Chicago and New York. Click [here](#) to access *Evidence Matters*.

The Impact of Neighborhoods on Youth Development

The Urban Institute has released a paper that provides a brief overview on how social and physical context affects the life chances of children and youth. The paper outlines the goals and initial research agenda for the Urban Institute’s “Program on Neighborhoods and Youth Development.” Three of the goals are: 1) to better understand “the dimensions of neighborhood environments that lead to negative outcomes for children to develop targeted interventions;” 2) to inform policy initiatives, such as Choice Neighborhoods and Promise Zones, aimed at improving outcomes for youth; and 3) “to explore how place affects development, health, and risky behavior for children and youth.” In an effort to inform place-based, community-wide strategies that will help them reach their full potential as adults, the Program aims to document the impact of several neighborhood-level factors on the well-being and development of children and youth. Click [here](#) to access the paper.



GRANTEE FEATURE

Seattle Housing Authority Section 3 Low Income Hiring Program

The HUD Act of 1968 established the [Section 3 policy](#) to guarantee that the employment and other economic opportunities created by federal financial assistance for housing and community development programs should, if possible, be directed toward low- and very-low income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing. The program requires that, to the maximum extent feasible, 30% of the jobs (“new hires”) created through the federal funding of a project be filled by Section 3 eligible persons. Section 3 eligible persons are low-income persons in one of the following four categories listed in priority order:

- 1) Residents of the Owner’s Project housing development;
- 2) Residents of other housing developments managed by the Owner;
- 3) Participants in a HUD Youthbuild program in the metropolitan statistical area; or
- 4) Residents of the metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

The Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) Section 3 program is based on a partnership between SHA, the community, pre-apprenticeship training programs, and construction contractors. In 2006 the SHA established a Section 3 Advisory Committee to monitor compliance with Section 3 goals; to advise SHA how best to meet those goals; and to increase communication, confidence, and program success. The SHA, together with its community-based Section 3 Advisory Committee, has created a robust and effective program with a goal that 100% of new hires be Section 3 eligible persons. This partnership sets high standards to meet the needs of all partners and works together to continually improve the program.

SHA requires contractors to develop a community participation plan for each project which details the contractor’s commitment to the Section 3 hiring program. The plan is reviewed by SHA staff and monitored on a monthly basis. SHA has found that monthly accountability helps contractors to plan adequately and for SHA and the community to understand any compliance issues and engage in positive problem solving during the project. The contractors attend the monthly Section 3 Advisory Committee meetings to report on their progress. Also, SHA employs a full time Section 3 coordinator who performs outreach, coordinates the pre-apprenticeship training course, maintains a list of eligible people, and works with contractors and labor unions to fill new hire positions. Since 2007 more than 360 Section 3 eligible people have been placed into employment on SHA construction projects and 85 placed into apprenticeships. One of the lessons learned thus far is the importance of pre-apprenticeship training and having an adequate number of Section 3 eligible people ready to go to work when the openings occur.

The [Yesler Terrace Redevelopment Community Workforce Agreement](#) is the next step in strengthening the SHA Section 3 program. It provides direct access to apprenticeships and providing a minimum of 700 hours of work for each Section 3 person hired. The Section 3 recruitment process for Yesler Terrace redevelopment projects began in 2010 with a partnership between the [Workforce Development Council](#) and the [Seattle Vocational Institute](#) (SVI). An evening pre-apprenticeship program was created so that the training could be made available to SHA residents who could not attend the traditional day program. Thirty-two participants completed the program and four entered apprenticeships. Many others were placed into construction work and are prepared for Yesler construction jobs.

With regard to outcomes, SHA recruited Section 3 eligible individuals for SVI pre-apprenticeship programs over the winter of 2012-13 in preparation for the 2013 Yesler Terrace projects. The contractor for the first major Yesler Terrace project estimates hiring 60 Section 3 eligible people into construction jobs over the course of the 14-month project. So far five people have entered the Laborer’s Local 242 apprenticeship program and 10 have been placed, primarily as carpenters and laborers, in the first few months of the Yesler Terrace Steam Plant Adaptive Reuse project. For more information about the Yesler Terrace Redevelopment Community Workforce Agreement, click [here](#).