



Choice Neighborhoods

Announcements



Second Session of the Choice Neighborhoods Technical Assistance Webinar Series: Tips for Developing a Comprehensive Neighborhood Transformation Plan

In early March, BCT Partners and the Center for the Study of Social Policy will be holding the second session of the Choice Neighborhoods Technical Assistance Webinar Series. This session will focus on ways to develop or improve a comprehensive neighborhood transformation plan.

Topics such as Using Data Effectively, Long Term Sustainability, Stakeholder Engagement, and Governance will be discussed. The session will be moderated by a subject matter expert in the field. You will receive registration information and a brief biography of the moderator via email later this month.

Eleven Choice Neighborhoods Grantees Participate in HUD Green Technical Assistance Pilot Initiative

We would like to congratulate the eleven Choice Neighborhoods grantees that were selected to participate in HUD's new Green Technical Assistance Program. The Affordable Green Initiative is a pilot initiative that provides sustainability and green building tools and resources to HUD Grantees and affordable housing organizations. Participants may receive training, organizational accreditation, and/or technical assistance at no cost. Congratulations to the following grantees:

- San Antonio Housing Authority
- Atlanta Housing Authority
- Rockford Housing Authority
- New York City Housing Authority
- BRIDGE Housing Corporation
- Wilmington Housing Authority
- The Michael's Development Company
- CMHA
- District of Columbia Housing Authority
- Jersey City Housing Authority
- Providence Housing Authority

Urban Institute Launches MetroTrends Data Resource

In late January, the Urban Institute launched a new online tool to help transform complex datasets into easily accessible, interactive charts and maps. The [MetroTrends Data Dashboard](#) is intended to help researchers, reporters, and residents better understand how their neighborhoods are changing.

There are a number of data points that Choice Neighborhoods grantees might find useful such as local unemployment, housing prices, loan activity, demographic and migration trends, and property and violent crime statistics. The MetroTrends blog article [here](#) demonstrates how the Data Dashboard can be used to understand the economic and demographic changes in a city.



Choice Neighborhoods Technical Assistance Request Portal

The new Choice Neighborhoods Technical Assistance website has launched. In addition to being able to access a variety of resources, Grantees seeking technical assistance can submit a request directly through the website. Please note that each request will be documented but might not result in individualized technical assistance. [Click here](#) to visit the website.

Funding Opportunities



Public-Private Fund Aims to Bridge Gap Between Affordable Health Care and Housing

Morgan Stanley, The Kresge Foundation, and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) have launched a \$100 million investment fund designed to expand access to health care and affordable housing for low-income residents and to fund essential social services that help link the two in impoverished neighborhoods. The Healthy Futures Fund was inspired by the 2010 Affordable Care Act, which includes approximately \$10 billion for the creation of new, federally-qualified health centers. The Fund is designed to spur collaboration among health care providers and housing developers who might not be collaborating despite working in the same low-income neighborhoods and serving the same populations. Low Income Housing Tax Credits, New Market Tax Credits, grants, loans, and guarantees are being used to raise capital. Choice Neighborhoods grantees seeking to improve access to affordable health care for the residents in their community should [click here](#) for more information on the Healthy Futures Fund.

HRSA Announces Health Center Funding Opportunity

In an effort to increase access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has announced a Health Center Program New Access Point funding opportunity. HRSA anticipates awarding approximately \$19 million to support an estimated 25 New Access Point grant awards in Fiscal Year 2013. New Access Point grants are funded by the Affordable Care Act to support new service delivery sites that provide preventive health care services and comprehensive primary care. [Click here](#) to view the announcement.

Resources and Information



Affordable Health Care Act Resources

The U.S. Department of Health Resources and Services Administration has created an [online resource](#) to explain the various components of the Affordable Health Care Act and its impact on low-income communities. Choice Neighborhoods grantees working with housing authorities may want to share this tool with their residents. In addition to the valuable background information, users that [click here](#) are able to key in their zip code and obtain a list of local free/low-fee community health centers in their area.

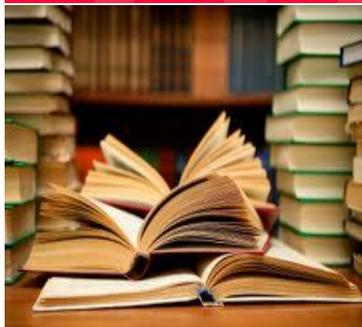
Green Building Training for HUD Grantees

HUD's Green Academy is currently offering green building training for HUD grantees and other affordable housing organizations that are receiving HUD assistance. Sessions for this pilot initiative will be held in various locations across the country this month and the next. Once sessions are full, individuals can be placed on a waiting list. Choice Neighborhoods grantees considering ways to incorporate energy efficient or environmentally friendly design elements into their comprehensive plans may want to attend one or more of the trainings. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

USGBC Releases Two New Neighborhood Development Resources

On December 7, 2012, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), in conjunction with the Land Use Law Center at Pace Law School in White Plains, New York, released two new free resources to help local governments leverage Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Neighborhood Development as a sustainability tool. The [Technical Guidance Manual for Sustainable Neighborhoods](#) will assist individuals and entities working with municipalities to use the LEED Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) [rating system](#) to evaluate and amend land use regulations, plans, and policies in order to promote more environmentally sound and economically robust communities. This manual is based on research and interviews with more than 60 municipalities that have already leveraged LEED-ND to enhance their comprehensive plans, land development regulations, and infrastructure planning to achieve their sustainability goals. In addition to the Technical Guidance Manual, the [Neighborhood Development Floating Zone](#) is a model ordinance designed to help local governments encourage green community development using the LEED-ND rating system. The Floating Zone is available as a cost-effective and efficient tool that local governments can use to incentivize the private sector to follow green neighborhood development principles when the process outlined in the manual is not an option. Read the press release [here](#).

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS



Expanding Housing Opportunities through Inclusionary Zoning

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research recently published an analysis of two cities that utilized Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) to expand the availability of affordable housing. IZ programs in Montgomery County, Maryland and in Fairfax County, Virginia were studied. Choice Neighborhoods grantees pursuing IZ ordinances may benefit from the data utilized for the analysis. Relevant documents such as IZ ordinances, program data, interviews with key stakeholders, and local housing-market statistics were studied to determine how they related to each city's desired outcomes. [Click here](#) to read more about the analysis.

Smart Growth and Economic Success

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently published the first in a series of reports designed to inform developers, businesses, local governments, and other groups about the benefits of smart growth development. The report, [Smart Growth and Economic Success](#), discusses topics such as compact development and walkability, and provides an array of choices in land use, building typology, and transportation. Future reports will build on this work and explore how developers and investors can overcome barriers to infill opportunities, how siting decisions will impact the bottom line of businesses, and why smart growth strategies are good fiscal policy for local governments. Grantees considering a smart growth approach to their comprehensive neighborhood plan should consider reading the report or [click here](#) for more information.