



Choice Neighborhoods e-Newsletter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grants Announced

On September 12, 2013, the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance announced more than \$12 million in awards to address neighborhood-level crime in 14 locations nationwide. The awards, administered through the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) program, will target locations or neighborhoods with significant levels of crime compared to their jurisdiction overall.

“BCJI targets persistently distressed local and tribal communities, working with them to develop place-based, community-oriented strategies with coordinated federal support,” said BJA Director Denise E. O’Donnell. “These awards will help build and enhance the capacity of communities and criminal justice partners to employ data- and research-driven methods in order to create comprehensive strategies to address priority crime problems.”

BCJI awards are made to applicants in cross-sector partnerships comprised of units of local government, criminal and juvenile justice agencies, nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized tribal governments. With BCJI funding, communities leverage research and innovation, identifying the drivers of crime in a location and developing multi-faceted strategies to reduce it.

BCJI is part of the Obama Administration’s Promise Zones Initiative, a part of President Obama’s Ladders of Opportunity agenda. Under the Promise Zones Initiative, the federal government, including the Departments of Justice, Education, Housing and Community Development, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture will invest and partner with high-poverty urban, rural, and tribal communities to create jobs, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, leverage private investment, and reduce violent crime. Click [here](#) to read the press release.

Congratulations to the Tampa Housing Authority (2012 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grantee) for being one of 14 FY2013 BCJI grant recipients!

Affordable Care Act Implementation Information

In March 2010, President Obama signed comprehensive health reform, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), into law. ACA enrollment begins October 1, 2013 for coverage beginning January 1, 2014. This law makes important investments to increase health care access for many Americans by:

- Expanding and modernizing community health centers across the country to serve up to 20 million more patients.
- Bringing more primary care providers to the neediest school communities by tripling the size of the [National Health Service Corps](#), which offers repayment and scholarships for individuals serving in areas that most need health care providers.
- Improving funding for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [Area Health Education Centers](#), which serve the primary care needs of rural and other underserved populations.

When enrollment begins in October, individuals will be able to visit www.healthcare.gov to buy insurance from qualified private health plans and check to see if they are eligible for financial assistance. Individuals are able to sign up for emails or text message updates so they are prepared when it is time to enroll. The U.S. Department of Education has also created supplemental information outlining how the Affordable Care Act will impact [communities](#), [parents and teachers](#), and [students](#). Click [here](#) to access information about the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace.

Affordable Health Care Conference Call

On September 20th at 2:30 pm (ET), White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships will host an Affordable Health Care Conference Call. HUD encourages your participation as it will showcase some of the best practices for partnerships that will help to prepare uninsured Americans to enroll in health insurance through the marketplaces starting on October 1, 2013. Faith-based and other community groups are playing key roles in this work, and HUD looks forward to exploring additional ways in which we might collaborate. You may register for this call at [this link](#). Once you register, a confirmation page will display dial-in numbers and a PIN. You will also receive an email confirmation with this information. This call is for community discussion, not press purposes.

National Endowment for the Arts to Hold Webinar with Choice Grantees

In October, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will be hosting a webinar for both Choice and Promise Neighborhoods grantees. The webinar will focus on the role of cultural arts in transforming communities. Stay tuned for more information.



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Affordable Care Act and Adolescents: New Issue Brief and Infographic

Since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in March 2010, millions of Americans have already benefited from many of the law's provisions, including coverage for preventive health services, a ban on lifetime limits, and insurance coverage for young adults. Furthermore, the expansion of Medicaid coverage and the launch of the Health Care Marketplace will help millions more obtain insurance coverage in 2014. The Department of Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and the Office of Adolescent Health have created a series of research and issue briefs to analyze the impact of the Affordable

Care Act. The most recent brief in the series, “*The Affordable Care Act and Adolescents*,” describes how the law addresses the unique needs of adolescents. Click [here](#) to read the brief. Click [here](#) to view the accompanying infographic.

Case Study of Baton Rouge, LA’s Healthy City Initiative

The National League of Cities [Sustainable Cities Institute](#) has released a profile of the [Mayor’s Healthy City Initiative](#) (MCHI) in Baton Rouge, LA. The report, [Promoting Health and Nutrition through Collaboration](#), highlights how MCHI promotes collaboration and communication between partner organizations across the city in order to improve health outcomes for residents in three key areas: healthy eating, sexually-transmitted disease (STD) prevention and awareness, and obesity prevention. Click [here](#) to read the full report.

Case Study of School Dropout Reengagement Program in Chicago, IL

Chicago, IL has instituted an innovative approach to reengaging out-of-school youth and their families using Student Outreach and Reengagement (SOAR) centers strategically located throughout the city. The National League of Cities recently published an article highlighting some of the successful components of the SOAR initiative. For example, reengagement specialists are used to identify barriers to school success and to connect SOAR participants to appropriate supportive services. The SOAR model has also been successfully implemented in other cities such as Omaha, NE; Portland, OR; and Philadelphia, PA. Click [here](#) to learn more.

HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research Publishes Examples of Best Practices

HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research has published a series of examples of best practices to increase affordable housing opportunities, apply sustainable features and practices, and increase access to public transportation based on federal, state, and local strategies. Each report outlines a project’s objectives and the strategies used to achieve them. For example, in Cleveland, OH, an ambitious [historic preservation](#) strategy was used to redevelop an abandoned hospital using low-income housing tax credits, state and federal historic preservation tax credits, and other public and private funds. In Chester, PA, a local university has embraced its role as an [anchor institution](#) in the community through a range of economic development, education, housing, and service learning initiatives. Click [here](#) to access the list of best practices reports.

Sustainable Communities HotReport Tool

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities’ HotReport is a new web-based tool to give community leaders and residents a quick and convenient way to determine how well their community is performing on a range of sustainability indicators including transportation, housing, economic development, income, and equity. Users can enter their state and county information to view charts, tables, and maps showing trends over time, or select other communities in order to compare performance. Click [here](#) to access the tool.

Kids Count Data Center

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has launched the Kids Count Data Center as a source for data on child and family well-being in the United States. Users are able to access hundreds of indicators, download data, and create reports to support smart decisions about children and families. Data topics include demographics, economic well-being, education, family and community, health, safety, and risky behaviors. Click [here](#) to access the data center.

Building Neighborhood Capacity Program Resource Center

The [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#) has made significant updates to the [Building Neighborhood Capacity Program](#) (BNCP) Resource Center, including populating the “Tools and Templates” section with several new resources in two categories: 1) tools and templates used in BNCP and 2) tools and templates designed to support community capacity building. BNCP is designed to help low-income neighborhoods build the infrastructure and resources needed to ensure families experience better results in the areas of education,

employment, safety, and housing. BNCP has resources in a range of areas relevant to Choice Neighborhoods grantees such as resident engagement, accountable partnerships, financing, and organizational and leadership capacity. Click [here](#) to access the BNCP Resource Center Tools and Templates.

Additional Guidance on the Use of Tenant Participation Funds

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has issued a notice clarifying previous guidance on the use of tenant participation funds as established by 24 C.F.R. § 964.150 and supersedes Public and Indian Housing Notice 2001-3. Click [here](#) to access the Notice.

National Summit on Children, Youth, and Families

The National League of Cities has announced that their biennial *National Summit on Your City's Families* will be held in Seattle, Washington on November 12-14, 2013. The theme of the 2013 Summit is "Leading and Managing for Results." It will offer attendees new tools for addressing local challenges while tracking and sustaining progress over time. Participants will learn strategies for using and sharing data effectively to assess and improve child and family well-being. In addition, participants will learn how cities and their partners are using the [Results-Based Accountability framework](#) to measure success. Click [here](#) for more information.

National Substance Abuse Prevention Month

In 2011, President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation designating October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. Parents, youth, schools, businesses, and community leaders across the country will participate in this month long observance of the role that substance abuse prevention plays in promoting safe and healthy communities. This year, the Office of National Drug Control Policy has focused its approach in four key areas: youth, parents, communities, and the workplace. Click [here](#) to learn more about National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. Click [here](#) to view the Save the Date flyer with a proposed list of weekly activities.

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

***Deadline Approaching!* Family Engagement Initiative**

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) has announced a \$5 million initiative to identify and cultivate innovations in the field of family engagement that support the educational success of children from birth to eight years old. For the purposes of this funding announcement, WKKF defines family engagement as a responsibility shared between families, schools, and communities for student learning and achievement. WKKF seeks to support and expand front line family engagement efforts including program design and implementation, service delivery, and/or policy development and implementation. Selected organizations will receive funding of up to \$500,000 for one to three years. Priority will be given to proposals that outline effective teaching strategies, seek to align early childhood systems in their communities, and focus on developing family economic security as well as strong family engagement in education. Pre-applications must

be received no later than September 23, 2013. Click [here](#) for complete program guidelines and application instructions.

Support for K-12 Field Trips

The Target Field Trip Grants program provides funding for K-12 field trips to help provide students across the county with the opportunity to explore more of the world outside of the classroom. Grants of up to \$700 each will be awarded to educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and classified staff who are employed at an accredited public, private, or charter school. Parents, after-school programs, pre-k centers, and other nonprofit organizations are not eligible to apply. Examples of funded trips include art, science, and cultural museum visits; community service and civic projects; career enrichment opportunities; and other events or activities outside the school building. Funds may be used to cover trip related costs such as transportation, ticket fees, food, resource materials, and supplies. The deadline to apply is October 1, 2013. Click [here](#) for more information.

Computing Education for the 21st Century

The National Science Foundation has made \$15 million available to provide support to build a computationally competent 21st century workforce and broaden participation for students from underrepresented groups including women, persons with disabilities, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans. The Computing Education for the 21st Century (CE21) program supports efforts in three tracks: computing education research designed to improve computing course curricula; the Computer Science 10K project to incorporate rigorous computing courses in 10,000 high schools; and broadening the knowledge base on effective teaching and learning models for underrepresented groups. Approximately 13-20 grants will be awarded, ranging from \$200,000 - \$10,000,000. Proposals must be received by March 12, 2014. Click [here](#) for more information about the announcement. Click [here](#) for a list of frequently asked questions.



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

CORNER

More Information on 2013 Promise Zones Applications

Last month, the August issue of the Choice Neighborhoods E-newsletter announced President Obama’s Promise Zone’s Initiative. The 2013 Promise Zones list of eligible communities and draft Application Guides with selection criteria and scoring for rural, urban, and tribal communities are now available [here](#). A list of Frequently Asked Questions is updated regularly with questions submitted to Promisezone@hud.gov.

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

NYU Furman Center Report on Innovations in Urban Revitalization

The [Center for an Urban Future](#) (CUF), along with New York University's [Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy](#) has released a two-part report, "*Innovation and the City*," that describes innovative urban revitalization efforts taking place across the United States and in London, England. [Part One](#), funded by Citi Community Development, focuses on opportunities for innovation that could be implemented in New York City. The report offers 15 case studies detailing urban revitalization strategies ranging from a revolving loan fund in Chicago to crowdsourcing capital projects in London. [Part Two](#) highlights 25 additional strategies that, while incompatible with New York City's government structure or political climate, merit replication in other cities. Case studies in Part Two include Harrisburg, PA's use of the tax code to incentivize development and discourage land speculation and San Francisco's approach to reducing traffic congestion. To promote the publication of the report, CUF and New York University's Robert F. Wagner School for Public Service hosted a forum on the *Role of Cities as Drivers of Policy Innovation*. Click [here](#) to watch the forum.



GRANTEE FEATURE

On hiatus – please check back next month!