

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants

This is only a summary; applicants should not rely on it to meet application requirements. Study the full grant opportunity announcement before applying for any federal grant.

Program Description – Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants support the development of comprehensive plans to revitalize severely distressed public housing and/or HUD-assisted housing and the surrounding neighborhood. Communities will develop a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan, to achieve the program's three core goals: Housing, People and Neighborhood.

Opportunity Numbers – FR-6700-N-38	Agency – Department of Housing and Urban Development	
Estimated Project Start Date: 10/02/2023 Estimated Project End Date: 10/02/2025	Closing – Jun 06, 2023, 11:59:59 PM Eastern	No BCA Required
Obligation Date: September 30, 2027	Expenditure Date: September 30, 2032	
Available Funding: \$10,000,000	NOFO – https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=347311	
Minimum Award: \$1 / Maximum: \$500,000	Eligible Project Cost Restrictions:	
Eligibility: Public/Indian housing authorities, County, City or township governments, Native American tribal governments, Nonprofits. One application per locality	Required Cost Share: Matching funds in the amount of at least five percent of the requested grant amount in cash or in-kind donations must be secured and used by the end of the grant term.	

Goals and Objectives (Pgs. 4 – 6)

Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals:

1. **Housing:** Replace severely distressed public and HUD-assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood;
2. **People:** Improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to income and employment, health, and education; and
3. **Neighborhood:** Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets that are important to families' choices about their community.

Support Underserved Communities	Invest in the Success of Communities	Ensure Access to and Increase the Production of Affordable Housing	Increase the Supply of Housing	Advance Sustainable Communities	Guide Investment in Climate Resilience	Strengthen Environmental Justice
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To achieve these core goals, successful applicants must develop a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or "Transformation Plan." This Transformation Plan becomes the guiding document for the revitalization of the public and/or HUD-assisted housing units, while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and creating positive outcomes for families.

Areas of Persistent Poverty or Historically Disadvantaged Communities (Justice40 Initiative defined)

Eligible Projects – An eligible neighborhood for Choice Neighborhoods grant funds is a neighborhood with at least 15% of the residents estimated to be in poverty or have extremely low incomes based on the most recent data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Required Activities (Pgs. 24 – 27)

In developing a "Transformation Plan" for the target neighborhood, each grantee must include the following required activities.

1. Ensure meaningful resident, community, and stakeholder participation throughout the development of the Transformation Plan.
2. Within the first 12 months of the Choice Neighborhoods grant, conduct a household-level asset and needs assessment of the public and/or assisted housing residents in the target development(s).

3. Devise a relocation strategy for target housing residents that need to be relocated during the rehabilitation or reconstruction of the public and/or assisted housing.
4. Have a market assessment conducted of the target neighborhood by an independent, third party professional during the grant period.
5. Select the master developer/housing developer that will implement the housing component of the Transformation Plan before the end of the grant term.
6. Complete a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment.
7. Contact the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to determine the potential for negative effects of demolition on historic properties.
8. Conduct comprehensive assessments to inform the preparation of the Transformation Plan.
9. Undertake a comprehensive and integrated planning process that addresses the challenges and gaps in services and assets identified through the needs assessments.

Eligible Project Costs – Each application must focus on the revitalization of at least one severely distressed public and/or assisted housing project.

Application & Narrative Requirements (Pg 34 – 40)

Double spaced 12-point (minimum) Times Roman font on letter sized paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches) with at least 1-inch margins on all sides. Each Choice Neighborhoods application must contain no more than 80 pages of narrative exhibits and attachments. The documents listed below constitute the only exceptions and are not counted in the page limit listed above. Extraneous information not requested in the NOFO that is provided in these attachments will be counted toward the page limit.

- Additional pages submitted at the request of HUD in response to a technical deficiency
- Table of Contents (HUD-53150)
- Eligible Applicants documentation (Attachment 2)
- The report generated from the mapping tool received via email (Attachment 4)
- Evidence of Partnership letters (Attachment 12)
- Leverage documentation (Attachment 17)
- Application Certifications and Standard forms (Attachments 23-24)

Attachments Required (If applicable)

- Attachment 1 **Key Eligibility Data Form.** (form HUD-53152)
- Attachment 2 **Eligible Applicant Documentation.**
- Attachment 3 **Eligible Target Housing Documentation - Severe Physical Distress of Targeted Project Certification** (form HUD-53232).
- Attachment 4 **Eligible Neighborhood Documentation - Eligible Neighborhood Data.**
- Attachment 5 **Resident Involvement Documentation.**
- Attachment 6 **Structural and Environmental Deficiencies Documentation.**
- Attachment 7 **Design Deficiencies Documentation.**
- Attachment 8 **Substandard Housing Documentation.**
- Attachment 9 **Part I Violent Crime Documentation.**
- Attachment 10 **Brownfields Cleanup Documentation.**
- Attachment 11 **Staffing Plan.**
- Attachment 12 **Evidence of Partnerships.**
- Attachment 13 **Budget.**

- Attachment 14 **Documentation to Support Consistency with Consolidated Plan.**
- Attachment 15 **Documentation to Support Consistency with PHA/MTW Plan.**
- Attachment 16 **Evidence of Local Government Support.**
- Attachment 17 **Leverage Documentation.** (form HUD-53154).
- Attachment 18 **Other Factors and Preference Points.**
- Attachment 19 **Planning Schedule.**
- Attachment 20 **City and Neighborhood Maps.**
- Attachment 21 **Current Site Plan.**
- Attachment 22 **Photographs of the Target Housing and Neighborhood.**
- Attachment 23 **Choice Neighborhoods Application Certifications.** (form HUD-53156).
- Attachment 24 **Standard Forms**
 - **Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424).**
 - **Certification Regarding Lobbying.**
 - **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL).**
 - **Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report** (form HUD-2880).