

# Choice Neighborhoods Initiative

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Choice Neighborhoods is an initiative by Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to develop a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation and revitalization. Beyond just addressing severely distressed public housing which is the target of the very successful HOPE VI Program, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative seeks to address the distressed neighborhoods around these developments by also targeting other assisted and vacant housing in the community and investing in people and neighborhood assets.

Toward this end, HUD has identified three goals for the program and where to direct resources:

- **Housing** – transform severely distress public and/or assisted housing into energy-efficient, mixed- income housing that is financially and physically viable over the long term. Implementation typically requires an experienced housing developer.
- **People** – support positive outcomes for both the public/assisted housing residents and the surrounding neighborhood with a focus on health, safety, employment, mobility and education. HUD encourages the grant recipients to work with the educational institutions and providers in the community to develop a comprehensive cradle to college educational delivery system including early childhood learning, schools, and other educational programs.
- **Neighborhood** – transform poverty neighborhoods into viable, mixed-income ones with access to well-functioning services, high quality public schools and education programs, high quality early learning programs and services, public assets, public transportation and improved access to jobs. A key goal is to coordinate the investment by public and private institutions in the community to leverage each other's investments and contribute to the revitalization of the area.

The goal is to transform communities as well as the lives of residents.

Recipients of Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants have a two-year planning period to develop a thoughtful and thorough comprehensive “transformation” plan for the targeted neighborhood and housing development. Planning Grant recipients will then have the opportunity to apply for an Implementation Grant to make the “transformation” plan a reality.