

# Choice Neighborhoods News

Since HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan's exciting announcement on June 30 of the award of a Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Implementation Grant for the Columbus Near East Side neighborhood and Poindexter Village site, we have had many inquiries about what happens next. Here are the latest updates, with more details to come in September:

- **Local Case Management Partner.** CNI grantees must begin providing supportive services within 60 days of the HUD grant award. Urban Strategies (US), the People lead, released an RFQ in July to identify qualified organizations to fill the role of the local Case Management Partner. The selected partner will provide case management and referral services, primarily for Poindexter Village residents, with the support of US.
- **Grant Start-Up.** There are strategies in our application that are underway, but the official launch of our Choice program will be in mid to late fall. HUD staff will be in Columbus this month to meet with CMHA and the other lead entities to help us put in place the programmatic and administrative processes required to implement the 7-year grant.
- **Tracking Leverage Commitments.** We can begin counting leverage as of June 30, 2014. In the fall, when our systems are up and running, we will begin working with organizations that provided leverage letters for the grant application on how to document these resources and to address any questions about their leverage commitments.
- **Allocating Choice Funds.** Our application described how HUD Choice funds and local leveraged resources would be used for broad strategy areas and development projects. The Choice governance structure, which will be established during the grant start-up phase, will be the mechanism for allocating these resources for specific programs and projects over the life of the grant, within the framework of the transformation plan.

Thanks for your interest in our Choice neighborhood! We look forward to providing you with more information in the fall. Please feel free to forward this email to others. To be added to our Choice mailing list, or to share program announcements or updates in future Choice e-newsletters, contact me at [bgarber@cmhanet.com](mailto:bgarber@cmhanet.com).

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*Choice Grant Announcement, 6/30/14*

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