

Russell Neighborhood Choice Planning Grant Application



***Beecher Terrace Resident Meeting
& Training Session
July 8, 2014***



AGENDA

- Welcome
- Choice Neighborhoods Program
- Partners
- Russell Neighborhood Context
- Planning Process
- Small Groups Exercise & Reporting
- Questions and Answers
- Comments



GROUND RULES

- Everyone's opinion matters
- Do not interrupt the person speaking
- Be respectful
- Raise your hand if you have a question or want to speak
- Pause frequently when you speak so the interpreter can translate what you said



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

- Grant program funded by HUD
- Started in 2010 and replaces the HOPE VI program
- Currently there are two types of Choice Neighborhoods grants

1) Planning *

2) Implementation



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

- Planning grant awards are up to \$500,000 each
- Louisville and its partners need to match the grant with another \$500,000
- If awarded, the grant and the applicants' matching funds are used to develop a **Transformation Plan** for the Russell Neighborhood, including Beecher Terrace



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

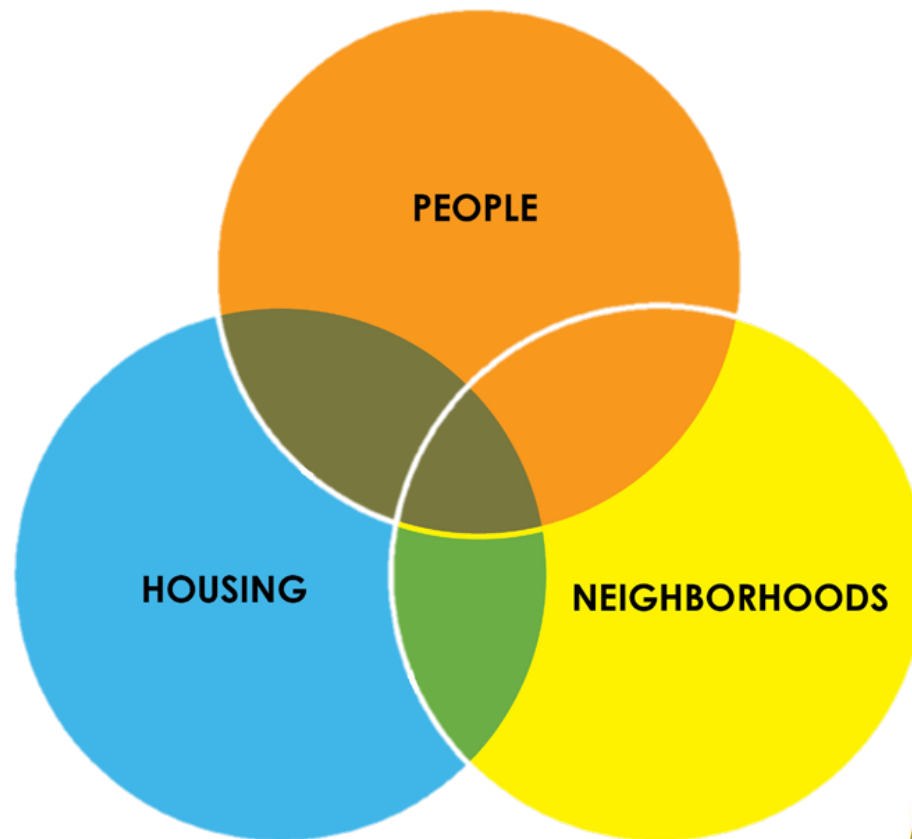


- Grant application is due on August 12, 2014.
- Awards are anticipated in January 2015.
- Grant period for planning would run until mid-2017.
- Louisville would have 2 years to complete its Transformation Plan for the Russell Neighborhood and to submit it to HUD.



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

- 3 components of the Transformation Plan



PEOPLE COMPONENT OF CHOICE

GRANT GOALS: Plans to Improve children's ability to succeed in school and to find occupations where they will thrive financially; and

Improving community and supportive services that are delivered to youth and their families.

■ Louisville would need a plan to improve the outcomes for students attending at least one Title I school in the Russell Neighborhood.



HOUSING COMPONENT OF CHOICE

GRANT GOALS: Plans to replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality, energy-efficient, mixed-income housing that responds to the needs of the neighborhood.

- Louisville would look at ideas for how Beecher Terrace could become a sustainable, mixed-income community.
- Other assisted housing providers in Russell may also be involved in looking at ways they can redevelop their properties.



NEIGHBORHOOD COMPONENT OF CHOICE

GRANT GOALS: Plans to create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in Russell that will offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activities, that are important to families' choices about their community.

- The community would complete a “doing while planning” project.



PARTNERS IN THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

■ Russell Community Members

Beecher Terrace Residents
Other Housing Providers & Residents
Schools
Early Childhood Education
Health Care Centers
Churches
Parks & Recreational Facilities
Neighborhood Businesses

■ Louisville Metro Government

■ Louisville Metro Housing Authority

■ Other Groups, Agencies and Residents from the Larger Community



IF LOUISVILLE GETS THE GRANT

- Hire a Planning Consultant to coordinate the partners and the overall planning process.
- Conduct a Needs Assessment of every Beecher Terrace household.
- Conduct a Market Assessment of the Russell neighborhood.



CRITICAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

Up to 15% of the grant (or approximately \$75,000) could be used for critical community improvements. Examples of how these funds can be used include:

- 1) Economic development activities;
- 2) Targeted loan, grant and revolving loan programs to assist existing Russell property owners; and
- 3) Acquiring underutilized land for new parks, community gardens or community facilities.



PLANNING GRANTS CANNOT BE USED FOR:

Choice Neighborhoods Planning grants are for planning activities and critical community improvements only.

Planning grants **CANNOT** be used for:

- 1) Demolition;
- 2) Relocation; or
- 3) Replacement housing.



THE RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD

The boundaries for the Russell Choice Neighborhood Planning Area are:

- North: Market Street
- South: Broadway
- East: 9th Street (Roy Wilkins Ave.)
- West: I-264 (West of 32nd St.)



HISTORY OF THE RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD

- Russell was one of Louisville's earliest and most desirable neighborhoods – with a range of housing types.
- By the 1940s, Russell was "Louisville's Harlem" – neighborhood attractions included theaters, restaurants, and night clubs.
- The neighborhood's decline began post World War II, and included the demolition of Russell's main business district.



RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

- The Russell Neighborhood of Louisville is known for its high concentration of subsidized housing.
- More than 53% of the neighborhood's residents live below the poverty line. Violent crime rates for the eastern Russell police beat is over 5 times the City-wide rate.
- The long-term vacancy rate for the Russell neighborhood is 26% - over a quarter of its housing stock.



GOALS OF THE PLANNING GRANT

- Transform Russell into a neighborhood of opportunity and choice
- Revitalize Beecher Terrace as part of an overall plan for improving the Russell neighborhood
- Attract investments to the Russell neighborhood to improve quality of life for residents



NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGES & STRENGTHS

What issues need to be addressed to make the Russell neighborhood and Beecher Terrace a better place to live?

Which 5 issues do you think should be tackled first?

What do you think are the strengths of the neighborhood?

