

Free Cervical and Breast Cancer Screenings

Every 3 minutes a woman in America is diagnosed with breast cancer and every 11 minutes a woman dies from the disease. Breast cancer strikes 1 in 8 women and kills more than 40,000 women across America every year. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer in women, second only to lung cancer.

A new report from the American Cancer Society finds that breast cancer rates among African-American women in the United States are increasing. Death rates from breast cancer among African-American women are 42% higher than in white women.

The American Cancer Society recommends that women age 45 to 54 should get mammograms every year. If you have a relative who has had breast cancer, you should start sooner.

To schedule a mammogram call Norton Health Prevention and Wellness at (502) 899-6842 or the James Graham Brown Cancer Center at (502) 562-4361. Passport and other insurance plans will pay for mammograms and if you don't have insurance, there are programs that may cover the cost. Call the Kentucky Women's Cancer Screening Program at (502) 574-5221 if you have further questions. The Pink Counties Initiative is providing the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness with funds for an outreach and education program on breast and cervical cancer screening that will run through the end of 2016. Contact Vision Russell Neighborhood Outreach Workers Julia Robinson at (502) 263-8976 or Jackie Floyd at (502) 263-8282 for more information on this initiative.



Vision Russell Neighborhood Outreach Workers
Jackie Floyd and Julia Robinson



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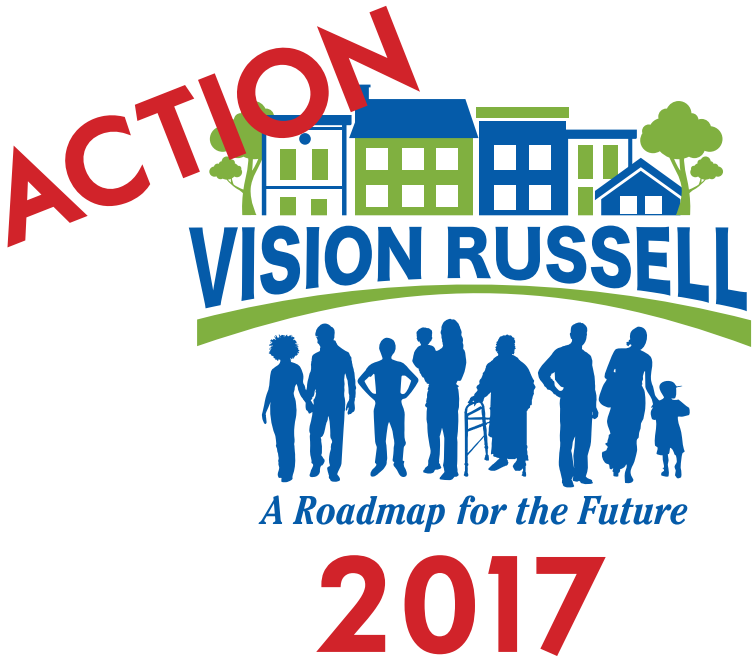


Implementation Grant Finalist Announcement

On September 29, 2016 The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban (HUD) announced that Louisville is one of five finalists for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Implementation Grant. If selected, Louisville Metro Housing Authority could receive up to \$29.5 million in grant funds. This funding would be leveraged with other public and private resources to implement a comprehensive revitalization of the Russell neighborhood, including the Beecher Terrace public housing development. HUD anticipates announcing four winners in December 2016.



Russell Choice Neighborhood Initiative NEWSLETTER



ACTION ACTIVITIES GRANT UPDATE: CALL FOR ACTION 2017

As part of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, the Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) received \$1,000,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to implement "Action Activities" in Russell - physical projects that will spur additional community improvement and economic development in the neighborhood.

Louisville Metro Government is contributing an additional \$375,000 towards these Action Activities. HUD has provided clear guidelines for how Action Activity funding can be spent:

Each of the projects must support Russell's Transformation Plan and be completed during 2017.

Projects must also:

- Occur within a focused area in the Russell neighborhood outside of the Beecher Terrace community footprint.
- Be physical improvements (funds cannot be used for services or programs).

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Action Activities Grant Update Continued...



Action Activities Workshop 08.17.2016

- Support existing investment in the neighborhood and encourage future development.
- Receive final approval from HUD before being funded.

The Center For Neighborhoods partnered with alumni of the Russell Neighborhood Institute and Beecher Terrace residents to conduct a neighborhood-wide polling process with Russell residents. The polling helped to identify the highest priorities among residents for neighborhood improvements.

Nearly 160 residents from across the neighborhood participated in the poll via open houses, online surveys, and street level canvassing. Participants included all age groups and residents from across Russell – 32nd Street to 9th Street, West Broadway to Market Street.

Residents were clear in their desire to see vacant lots improved through Action Grant funds. Neighborhood park upgrades, and high-quality bus stops and amenities were also top priorities among poll participants.

This input from Russell residents, along with HUD eligibility guidelines, and the goals and strategies outlined in the Vision Russell CNI Transformation Plan, helped shape the “Call for Action

2017” that is now available on Vision Russell’s website, www.visionrussell.org. The website provides additional details on how to get involved in four Action Activity project categories – repurposing vacant lots, improving Sheppard Park, transforming bus stops, and enhancing neighborhood gateways. Projects must fall within the defined Action 2017 focus area which spans from Broadway to Cedar Street and 13th to 18th Street.

There are several immediate opportunities for residents, stakeholders and other interested parties to get involved in Action Grant activities:



Funding – Grant monies are available to support project proposals.



Ideas – Input is being sought from community members and professionals on the four project categories.



Services – Many of these projects will rely on volunteer labor and in-kind services provided by the community.

A team of neighborhood residents, along with LMHA and Louisville

Metro staff will review and prioritize project proposals to be included in a draft and final Action Activities Plans that must be submitted to HUD for final approval. Implementation of selected projects is expected to begin in early 2017 and must be completed by December 2017.

For additional information on the Vision Russell Action Activity poll results or to find the “Call for Action 2017” packet, which will tell you everything you need to determine how you can submit a proposal or get involved, please go to www.visionrussell.com. You can also pick up a packet of Action 2017 materials at several locations in Russell including the Louisville Central Community Centers, 1300 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. and the Baxter Community Center, 1135 Cedar Street, and Western Library, 604 S. 10th Street.



Resident Spotlight: Mika McClain & Haven Harrington

When Mika McClain describes her home in the historic Russell neighborhood, the pride and affection she has for the structure is pretty evident. With its federal style architectural features and its close proximity to the city’s central business district, McClain admits that purchasing the home in 2003 was an easy decision.

“I fell in love with my home the moment I saw it,” said McClain who shares the home with her husband Haven Harrington and their 8-year-old daughter. “It is located on a quiet street, and has the charm and character I was looking for that you just can’t find in newer homes.”

But while her home is a source of pride, it is also constant reminder of the work needed to improve the overall neighborhood.

“I know that my home would be worth several hundred thousand dollars if it were located in a different part of town,” said McClain. “My family should be able to enjoy the same amenities and benefits that are found in other neighborhoods.”

Ensuring that some of those features are part of the Transformation Plan that is currently being developed for the Russell Neighborhood is one of many reasons the couple have remained active participants throughout the planning process.

“There needs to be a focused effort to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of resources and opportunities, and that Russell residents are afforded the same opportunities that have been afforded to Louisville’s wealthy and elite,” said Harrington, whose roots in Russell span more than six decades when his grandfather first opened and operated a barber shop in the area. “If that occurs, I think we can move past the level of distrust that many residents have and engage more people in the planning process.”

Harrington also believes that similar efforts found in other cities like Chicago, Atlanta and other cities might provide valuable insights on what Russell could look like in the future, especially as community and city leaders ponder the next steps for the 24-acre site that was scheduled to house the planned West Louisville FoodPort.

“I would love to see more housing, a covered amphitheater and hay market that is similar to the Findlay Market in Cincinnati,” said Harrington. “But to achieve that level of progress, the city has to be willing to listen and take our feedback into consideration.”

“I’m excited about the possibilities and eager to see what’s next,” said Harrington. “I’m definitely in this for the long haul.”

McClain agrees and wants to see more Russell residents attending many of the community meetings.

“Throughout this process, I know that a real focus was made to get the word out and to have as many Russell residents as possible involved in the meetings that were held,” said McClain who attended most of the education and housing task forces sessions as well as the various community conversations. “We wanted to make sure that our voices were heard and that we played an active role in shaping the future of Russell.

Over the next several months, the City, Louisville Metro Housing Authority, Russell residents and the various Vision Russell community partners will work to finalize and submit the Transformation Plan to federal officials. As the planning process enters the final stages, despite some setbacks—including the recent announcement to scrap the planned FoodPort development—the couple remains hopeful.

“I’m excited about the possibilities and eager to see what’s next,” said Harrington. “I’m definitely in this for the long haul.”