

Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Overview

The Newark Housing Authority, one of 17 recipients (out of 72 applicants) nationwide, was awarded a 2012 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Planning Grant by HUD to develop strategies or Transformation Plan to revitalize the area surrounding the Seth Boyden Terrace housing complex, the Dayton Street Neighborhood. Building on the success of the HOPE VI program, CNI centers on the transformation of neighborhoods of extreme poverty into sustainable mixed-income communities, pursuant to a comprehensive, community-driven Transformation Plan.

The strategies of the Transformation Plan will be designed to: transform, rehabilitate and replace housing needs of both public and HUD-assisted housing; and transform neighborhoods of poverty into functioning, sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs. CNI also supports affordable housing and community development activities in surrounding communities to improve the lives of area residents by creating job opportunities, improving schools and providing work and rent incentives that promote family self-sufficiency.

The NHA will create a strategic Steering Committee and several Task Forces to involve residents and NHA partners in the planning process over the next 12-18 months. Input from residents is critical in developing a plan that truly addresses the needs of the community. The Task Forces will focus on:

- **Housing** – transform the obsolete housing at Seth Boyden into attractive, energy-efficient housing that is financially and physically viable over the long term. The redevelopment of Seth Boyden, by leveraging public and private funds, will create a sustainable mixed-income community, respond to the needs of the residents, and provide community amenities for people to live and work.
- **People/Education** – promote positive outcomes for both residents and the surrounding neighborhood with a focus on education, health care, needed services, transportation, safety, training, employment, and education. NHA will work with public and private institutions to address the needs of area residents to create job opportunities while also providing services. The educational goals include early childhood learning, after school and summer programs, tutoring and college prep, vocational training and job counseling programs.
- **Neighborhood/Capital Improvements** – transform the Dayton Street neighborhood into a vibrant and safe mixed-income community with access to quality services and education programs, public amenities, public transportation, connection to the Master Plan for the City of Newark, airport access and improved access to jobs. A key goal is to attract investments by both the public and private sectors.

NHA and its partners will seek funding, including an Implementation Grant from HUD, within 18-24 months for revitalization. The revitalization grant, if awarded, will seek to leverage substantial local resources to provide new housing, economic opportunity, neighborhood services and facilities, case management and other services for the residents of Seth Boyden Terrace and the surrounding community.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria Wright, CNI Coordinator, gwright@newarkha.org, or (973) 273-6600.