

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Cincinnati, OH

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority

**Target Public Housing Project:** English Woods

**Target Neighborhood:** Fairmount

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$201,844

#### **Key Partners:**

Community Building Institute (Planning Coordinator), City of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Police Department, Cincinnati Public Schools/Ethel Taylor Academy, Cincinnati Works, Civic Garden Center, Local Initiative Support Corporation, JCG/Connect4Success, Strive Partnership



#### **Project Summary:**

The Fairmount neighborhood of Cincinnati has seen continued disinvestment for many years that has led to a wide variety of concerns among community residents. Nearly half of the neighborhood's population lives below the poverty line, the long term vacancy rates are almost three times that of the county, and the neighborhood public school has, until the past school year, been in the category of "Academic Emergency." However, Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), the Community Building Institute, and other partners will engage the community to create a plan for how CMHA's 70 acres of vacant land, where English Woods stood prior to its demolition in 2005-2006, can be properly harnessed to provide the boost of housing opportunities, amenities, and services this community needs.

The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will allow Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), the Community Building Institute (CBI) and other partners to develop a comprehensive neighborhood Transformation Plan that will be sustainable for years to come. CMHA and CBI will lead a five-stage planning process to build a stronger community by developing a shared vision for the future of the Fairmount neighborhood. Community engagement will play a pivotal role by informing the community and partners of the plan's progress and by soliciting input through one-on-one stakeholder and community meetings. The resulting Transformation Plan will address the need for quality education, resident safety, access to fresh foods and groceries, commercial development and employment.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Cleveland, OH

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority

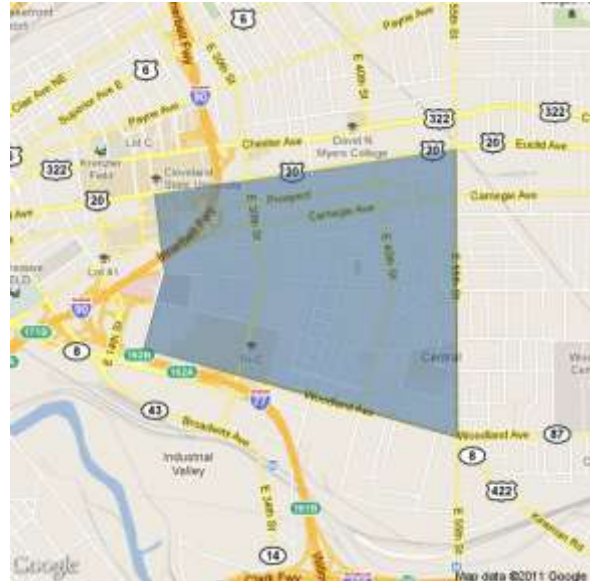
**Target Public Housing Project:** Cedar Extension

**Target Neighborhood:** Central Choice

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$300,000

#### **Key Partners:**

City Architecture, Inc. (Planning Coordinator), Sisters of Charity Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, PNC Bank, The City of Cleveland, The Cleveland Foundation, Progressive Action Council, Case Western Reserve University's Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, US Bank, Campus District, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.



#### **Project Summary:**

The Central Choice neighborhood is located just east of downtown Cleveland, Ohio, and is home to over 10,000 people. Of these residents, over half live in public housing owned by the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), and over 73 percent of households live in poverty. Residents are confronted with high crime rates, few retail options, and the neighborhood elementary school is a Persistently Lowest Performing school. To change these circumstances, CMHA will be partnering with City Architecture Inc. to develop a plan for rebuilding the deteriorated Cedar Extension public housing development to create residential, retail, and other amenities in the Central Choice neighborhood.

In addition to CMHA and City Architecture Inc., the team includes the Center for Urban Poverty and Community Development at Case Western, as Data Partner, to examine and coordinate several previous and current planning efforts. CMHA will build upon the existing Homeownership Zone for new owner-residents and will use the new Cuyahoga County Land Bank and Sustainable Communities funding to jump start the planning process. A unique aspect to this effort is the creation of nine "Planning Assistantships." These positions will be held by area residents and/or students at local educational institutions to ensure resident participation and assist with the planning process. Through these efforts, CMHA and its partners aim to create a Transformation Plan that will act as both a master plan for the redevelopment of Cedar Extension and the Central Choice neighborhood as well as a guiding document for the creation of a broad range of opportunities for the residents of the community.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Columbus, OH

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority

**Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantees:** The Ohio State University, City of Columbus, and National Church Residences

**Target Public Housing Project:** Poindexter Village

**Target Neighborhood:** Near East Side

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$300,000

#### Key Partners:

Campus Partners, Columbus Planning Division, OSU Kirwan Institute for Race and Ethnicity, Community Research Partners, Learn4Life Columbus, Human Services Chamber of Franklin County, United Way of Central Ohio



#### Project Summary:

The 26-acre, 414-unit public housing project of Poindexter Village is located within the distressed Near East Side of Columbus, OH. 46.5 percent of residents living in this neighborhood are extremely low income and the neighborhood has a high vacancy rate and the lowest performing middle school in Ohio. The Poindexter Village Neighborhood Transformation Plan will be supported through collaborative efforts of the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), the nearby Ohio State University (OSU), nonprofit housing developer National Church Residences (NCR), and the City of Columbus (City).

This effort will leverage the existing and geographically larger People Achieving Community Transformation (PACT) structure, which represents anyone who lives, works, or visits the neighborhood. Their goal is “to create a healthy, financially, and environmentally sustainable community where residents have access to safe and affordable housing, quality healthcare, and education and employment opportunities.” The PACT leadership (OSU, CMHA, and the City), staff committees, and subcommittees will manage both the Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan and PACT master plan process to assure that there is coordination of efforts and that resources are used efficiently. CMHA will be responsible for the day-to-day grant management activities but will be working hand in hand with OSU, the City, and NCR to deliver results. This structure has already harnessed the efforts of 75 people on PACT subcommittees and includes representatives from area businesses, residents, and clergy, as well as health, social service, neighborhood, cultural arts, education, and economic development organizations. Ultimately, the PACT process will undertake a four-phase process that will address education, health and wellness, jobs and economic development, housing, and safety.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Little Rock, AR

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Housing Authority of the City of Little Rock

**Target Public and Assisted Housing Projects:** Sunset Terrace and Elm Street

**Target Neighborhood:** Southeast of Downtown

**Category Preference:** Promise Neighborhoods (also qualified under Collaboration among Housing Providers)

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$300,000

#### Key Partners:

Quadel Consulting Cooperation (Planning Coordinator), Volunteers of America National Services (VOAN), University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), Central Arkansas Library Systems (CALs), Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, Planning Department of the City of Little Rock



#### Project Summary:

The Housing Authority of the City of Little Rock (LRHA), with Quadel Consulting, will begin a comprehensive planning effort for a neighborhood that covers a two square mile area southeast of downtown. This area is affected by high crime, physical isolation, poor schools and suffers from a vacancy rate that is 3.6 times higher than the county rate. Over the course of 18 months, the planning process will examine how the distressed Sunset Terrace and Elm Street housing sites, and the surrounding neighborhood, can be transformed into a neighborhood of opportunity. LRHA aims to integrate this planning effort with several planning and redevelopment processes underway, including Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods Program, HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and HUD's Preferred Sustainable Communities program.

To accomplish these goals, LRHA and Quadel will create a management and leadership team that will be responsible for driving these efforts forward. Once formed, various parties will be charged with gathering and analyzing information on resident and community demographics, housing conditions, the local educational system, public infrastructure needs, commercial market data, and community assets. These data points will be combined with qualitative input received from stakeholder interviews, forums, and questionnaires. All this information will be used to develop a Transformation Plan that is achievable, leverages multiple sources of financing, and engages stakeholders.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Meridian, MS

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Housing Authority of the City of Meridian

**Target Public Housing Project:** George M. Reese Court

**Target Neighborhood:** East End

**Category Preference:** Non-Metropolitan Area

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$242,500

#### Key Partners:

Michaels Development Company (Planning Coordinator), Wallace Roberts & Todd, City of Meridian, Meridian Public School District, The Greater Meridian Health Clinic, Multi-County Community Service Agency, The Meridian Transit Authority, Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors, Anderson Regional Medical Center, Rush Health Systems, Interstate Realty Management Company, The Workforce Investment Network



#### Project Summary:

The East End neighborhood is challenged with high crime, high vacancy rates, inadequate schools, poor health and nutrition among residents, and deteriorated housing. The Housing Authority of the City of Meridian (MHA), working with Michaels Development, will create a plan for a safe, asset and amenity-rich, walkable neighborhood with new replacement housing and high quality education, healthcare, and social services for neighborhood residents.

The planning effort will work to bridge the gap between assets and needs. Efforts will include pairing a high capacity development team with the need for new housing; using local medical institutions to address the need for health and nutrition planning; and working with the Meridian Public School District to address the need for education reform. Additionally, the Meridian Medical District will work to address the need for job creation and improved transportation access. MHA will meaningfully involve residents in the transformation planning from concept through implementation. They will conduct people, housing and neighborhood needs assessments, engage the community and residents in education opportunity planning, and provide capacity building and knowledge sharing opportunities.



## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Opa-Locka, FL

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Opa-locka Community Development Corporation

**Target Assisted Housing Project:** The Gardens

**Target Neighborhood:** Nile Gardens

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$300,000

#### **Key Partners:**

EJP Consulting Group, LLC (Planning Coordinator), Creative Choice Homes, Urban League of Greater Miami, Florida Memorial University, City of Opa-locka



#### **Project Summary:**

Opa-locka Community Development Corporation (OLCDC), working with EJP Consulting Group, LLC (EJP), will be embarking upon an 18-month planning process to determine how The Gardens housing development can be transformed to benefit the greater Nile Gardens community. Currently, Nile Gardens struggles with high poverty and vacancy rates where 43 percent of residents qualify as extremely low-income and 10 percent of the housing stock has been vacant for more than 90 days. OLCDC will create a plan that will identify how to replace The Gardens with new mixed-income and energy-efficient units in an amenity-rich section of the neighborhood. This effort will build off the planning efforts OLCDC led in nearby neighborhoods to expand the area of investment and opportunity and to emphasize the new opportunities for transit-oriented development in this community.

OLCDC and EJP will facilitate a collaborative planning process that will result in a comprehensive and feasible Transformation Plan. This will be a multi-step process that will start with establishing meaningful resident and community involvement. This will be followed by a detailed assessment of resident needs, community assets, neighborhood conditions, and analysis of local data. These efforts will help inform the Steering Committee and specialized Task Forces, which will convene regularly to discuss strategies for the major Choice Neighborhoods elements of Housing, People, and Neighborhood along with economic development. Finally, these parties will prepare a Transformation Plan that identifies specific activities, partners, funding sources, timelines, and measurable outcomes to drive the plan forward.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Rockford, IL

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Rockford Housing Authority

**Target Public Housing Project:** Fairgrounds Valley

**Target Neighborhood:** Fairgrounds/Ellis Heights

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$300,000

#### **Key Partners:**

Camiros Ltd. (Planning Coordinator), Gorman & Company, Alignment Rockford, City of Rockford, City of Rockford Head Start, Crusader Community Health, Ellis Heights Weed & Seed, Regional Office of Education Boone-Winnebago Counties, Rock Valley College, Rockford Area Arts Council, Rockford Metropolitan Area for Planning, YWCA of Rockford



#### **Project Summary:**

Years of deferred investments and maintenance of residences and infrastructure have contributed to the decline of the Fairgrounds/Ellis Heights neighborhood in Rockford, Illinois. The concentration of households in poverty in the neighborhood exceeds 50 percent and the long-term vacancy rate is over 20 percent. The Rockford Housing Authority and its Planning Coordinator, Camiros Ltd., in collaboration with the Choice Neighborhoods Task Force and developer Gorman & Company, will take concrete steps toward transforming the Fairgrounds/Ellis Heights community. The City of Rockford's Head Start Program, the Regional Office of Education, and Alignment Rockford will focus specifically on improving educational and developmental outcomes of Fairgrounds/Ellis Heights 'children.

Six milestone Task Force meetings will provide the structure for Transformation Plan development: 1) issue identification, 2) asset mapping, 3) vision development, 4) strategy development, 5) project and program directions, and 6) plan development and implementation responsibilities. The Transformation Plan will be developed using a community-based, bottom-up planning approach that optimizes the resources and commitment of local stakeholders, builds on the successful programs and investments currently in place, and organizes implementation actions around the abilities and strengths of local anchor institutions, businesses, and residents. A comprehensive "community data book" will serve as a planning resource and as the basis for metrics to evaluate the Plan's implementation. The performance metrics will be linked, where appropriate, to the metrics developed through a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### County of Sacramento, CA

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento  
**Target Public Housing Project:** Twin Rivers  
**Target Neighborhood:** River District-Railyards  
**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$300,000

#### Key Partners:

EJP Consulting Group, LLC (Planning Coordinator), California Endowment, California State University – Sacramento, City of Sacramento, River District Property and Business Improvement District, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, Sacramento Steps Forward, Twin Rivers Unified School District, UC-Davis Center for Regional Change



#### Project Summary:

In order to reduce high rates of poverty and homelessness while encouraging the transition to a mixed-use community, the River District-Railyards is an area targeted for redevelopment. However, a comprehensive plan is needed to revitalize the severely distressed Twin Rivers public housing development and more fully integrate its transformation into the existing redevelopment efforts. The Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento and its Planning Coordinator, EJP Consulting Group, LLP, will work to deliver a Transformation Plan for the River District-Railyards that identifies a specific approach to ensure that residents across all socio-economic levels, ages, and household types are integrated into the residential fabric of the community and are offered enhanced housing choices, supportive services, and educational opportunities. These efforts should ultimately create a vibrant neighborhood with grocery stores, banks, health care, programmed open space, and effective public transit options that connect people to employment centers and services.

In this planning effort, specific activities will include a meaningful resident and community involvement process comprised of community workshops, detailed resident needs and community asset assessments, including resident, services, and physical surveys. These planning activities will be organized by specialized task forces with “key thought leaders” for each Transformation Plan element – Education, People, Housing and Neighborhood – that convene regularly to review information and brainstorm on possible approaches. All these efforts and structures will be designed to create a Plan that identifies specific activities, partners, funding sources, timeliness, and measurable outcomes.



## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Savannah, GA

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Housing Authority of Savannah

**Target Public Housing Projects:** Robert Hitch Village and Fred Wessels Homes

**Target Neighborhood:** East Savannah Gateway

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$300,000

#### **Key Partners:**

City of Savannah, Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, Savannah State University, CHSA Development Inc., Trident Sustainability Group, The Savannah Bank, United Community Bank, Chatham Area Transit



#### **Project Summary:**

The Housing Authority of Savannah (HAS), with the support of a diverse array of key partners, will develop a Transformation Plan for the East Savannah Gateway neighborhood, targeting the Robert Hitch Village and Fred Wessels Homes public housing sites. The neighborhood has been "outside the grid" in terms of its physical connection to Savannah's historic street pattern and disconnected from the economic activity that provides employment and services to other parts of Savannah. This marginalization is reflected in the concentration of poverty, extremely low-income population, and high housing vacancy. HAS will create a Transformation Plan that will connect Eastern Gateway Neighborhood to the social and economic development that is occurring in the nearby historic district and riverfront.

HAS is anticipating a 24-month planning process to complete its Transformation Plan. During this time, HAS will establish a management and leadership team, create planning protocols, mobilize partners, and gather data on resident demographics, housing stock, education, infrastructure, and commercial markets. In addition, HAS is planning on using various forms of qualitative data gathered through stakeholder interviews, forums, questionnaires, and workshops. Ultimately, HAS plans to use the information gathered in these efforts to craft a plan that is achievable, leverages multiple sources of funding, and engages community stakeholders.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Springfield, MA

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** City of Springfield

**Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee:** Springfield Housing Authority

**Target Public and Assisted Housing Projects:** Marble Street Apartments, Concord Heights, and Hollywood Apartments I & II

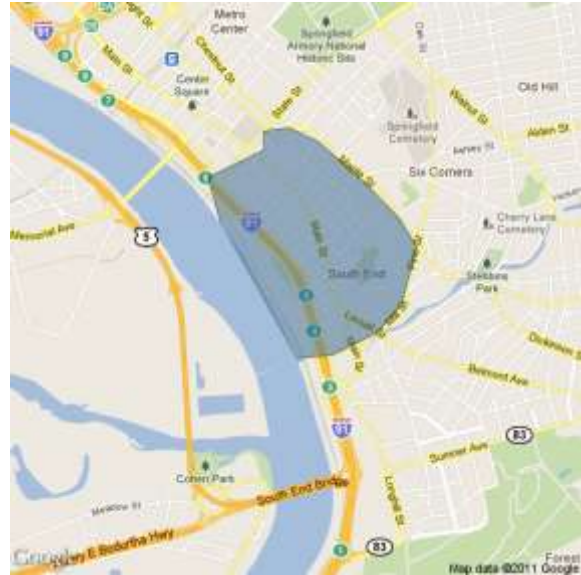
**Target Neighborhood:** South End

**Category Preference:** Collaboration among Housing Providers

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$300,000

#### **Key Partners:**

EJP Consulting Group, LLC (Planning Coordinator), First Resource Development Company, South End Revitalization Coalition, DevelopSpringfield, Square One, Veritas Charter School, Irene and George S. Davis Foundation, United Way of Pioneer Valley



#### **Project Summary:**

The City of Springfield has partnered with the Springfield Housing Authority to develop a Transformation Plan for the South End of Springfield, MA. Coordinated by EJP Consulting Group LLC, as Planning Coordinator, the neighborhood plan will focus on a public housing complex in the neighborhood, Marble Street Apartments, and two HUD-assisted multifamily projects, Concord Heights and Hollywood Apartments. The South End has high rates of poverty and violent crime: 42 percent of residents are below the poverty line and four times as many violent crimes occur in the neighborhood as compared to the City of Springfield. In addition, key neighborhood assets, including the South End Community Center and the South End's only high-quality early childhood education center, were destroyed by a tornado in June 2011. The transformation planning will capitalize and expand on community visioning and planning work that has already been undertaken by the broad-based South End Revitalization Coalition and the City of Springfield.

Key elements of the transformation will include the introduction of new market-rate housing, demolition and substantial rehabilitation of existing housing stock, and construction of a new community center and a new early childhood education center. The new development will build on neighborhood initiatives recently completed or in progress including expansion of the community health center; introduction of a new neighborhood-based charter school; extensive road and streetscape improvements; transformation and expansion of the neighborhood's 7.6 acre park; a Main Street Corridor Storefront Improvement Program; and clearance and greening of a neighborhood factory site.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Suffolk, VA

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority

**Target Public Housing Projects:** Parker Riddick and Cypress Manor

**Target Neighborhood:** East Washington Street

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$255,656

#### **Key Partners:**

The Communities Group (Planning Coordinator), City of Suffolk, Housing Opportunities and Concepts, S. Patz and Associates, Hampton Roads Regional District Committee, Wiencek and Associates, VHDA, Virginia Community Capital, Constellation Energy, Senior Services of Southeast Virginia, Habitat for Humanity, Suffolk Family YMCA



#### **Project Summary:**

Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Agency (SRHA) has been planning the revitalization of East Washington Street since 2008. These early efforts included discussions with a developer to involve an adjacent 80-acre parcel; the completion of a market study for residential, office, and retail development; a preliminary master plan concept; and a zoning analysis. The vision for the East Washington Street neighborhood includes redevelopment to produce a mixed-use (retail, residential, and recreational), mixed-income community, with one-for-one replacement of the public housing units and a new senior community center.

To capitalize on these previous planning efforts, SRHA will be working with the planning firm, The Communities Group, to achieve six primary goals. First, establish all partnerships necessary to carry out the redevelopment. Second, develop a financing plan and phasing model for the development in such a way that the replacement public housing units are integrated throughout the redeveloped area. Third, address the “edges” of the target area to ensure that the broader community benefits from the initiative. Fourth, devise strategies for making available community and supportive services to all residents throughout the target area. Fifth, study storm water problems exacerbated by the Great Dismal Swamp, road network issues, and connectivity to downtown. And six, develop an organizational framework for implementation.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Washington, DC

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** District of Columbia Housing Authority

**Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee:** Kenilworth Parkside Resident Management Corporation

**Target Public and Assisted Housing Projects:** Kenilworth Courts and Kenilworth Parkside Resident Management Corporation

**Target Neighborhood:** Parkside-Kenilworth

**Category Preference:** Promise Neighborhoods (also qualified under Collaboration among Housing Providers)

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$300,000



### Key Partners:

E.R. Bacon Development, LLC (Planning Coordinator), Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy, City Interests, Community College of the District of Columbia, Community Preservation and Development Corporation, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Dantes Partners, LLC, Washington DC Local Initiatives Support Corporation, DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative, District of Columbia Primary Care Association, East of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative, Educare, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., Government of the District of Columbia, Office of the Mayor and Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Howard University, Kenilworth Elementary School, Pollin Memorial Community Development, LLC, Telesis Corporation, Tiger Woods Learning Center, United Planning Association, Wheeler Creek CDC

### Project Summary:

The Parkside-Kenilworth neighborhood is isolated from the rest of Washington, DC with only one entrance and otherwise bounded by a river, major highways and a decommissioned power plant. Over 50 percent of neighborhood households live in poverty. The vision for the Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan is to create a cohesive, well-functioning community, using housing as a platform for improved quality of life, by redeveloping two severely distressed HUD-assisted housing developments, tying together the neighborhood's many assets and providing resources that enable children and families to succeed. A Choice Neighborhoods Stakeholders Council, currently comprised of the KPRMC President, DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative President, Kenilworth Courts Resident Council President, principals of the four neighborhood schools, owners/operators of seven existing and planned subsidized housing developments, and a team of data and evaluation partners, is overseeing the planning process.

The Choice Neighborhoods planning grant will result in a feasible Transformation Plan for the redevelopment of the 288-unit Kenilworth Courts public housing development and the 132 project-based voucher units owned by Kenilworth Parkside Resident Management Corporation. Facilitated by planning coordinator, ER Bacon Development LLC, the planning process will look to link neighborhood residents to employment and educational services and developing neighborhood assets including transportation and recreational space. Planning efforts will build upon the area's existing Promise Neighborhoods planning effort that is focused on improving educational and developmental outcomes for children in Parkside-Kennilworth. The District of Columbia Housing Authority and the DC Promise Neighborhoods Initiative have been closely coordinating planning efforts, sharing data and resources, and conducting work groups and joint community meetings.

## FY 2011 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

### Wilson, NC

**Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:** Housing Authority of the City of Wilson

**Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee:** City of Wilson

**Target Public Housing Project:** Whitfield Homes

**Target Neighborhood:** Center City

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$200,000

#### Key Partners:

TCG Development Services, LLC (Planning Coordinator), Wilson Community College, Barton College, St. Johns Community Development Corporation, Wilson Public Schools, Wilson Community Credit Union, Diversified Opportunities, JSL Development Center Inc., Bridgestone Americas, Salvation Army/Boys and Girls Club, Wilson County Partnership for Children/Smart Start, Imagination Station, J&L Summerville Academy, Families in Action, Upper Coastal Plains, Opportunities Industrialization Center, Carolina Family Health Centers



#### Project Summary:

The Housing Authority of the City of Wilson has partnered with the City of Wilson and TCG Development Services, LLC, to develop a Transformation Plan for the neighborhood around Whitfield Homes. In the Center City neighborhood, Whitfield Homes is the only large multifamily public housing property and is isolated from the rest of the community. Center City has a poverty rate of over 50 percent and an unemployment rate of 46 percent. Despite the neighborhood distress, there are many assets in the area including new residential and commercial developments, a planned park and greenway that will tie the Whitfield site to a major new recreational area traversing much of the city, the city Transit Center and Amtrak station, a recreation center, early education center, community college, and the planned Whirligig Park.

The Choice Neighborhoods planning process will focus on establishing partnerships necessary to carry out neighborhood redevelopment, including the development of a financing plan and phasing model; reconnecting Whitfield Homes to downtown; strategies to make available community and supportive services to residents throughout the target area; creating momentum for the private sector to revitalize and rebuild downtown retail businesses; and establishing a strong early childhood education anchor institution that provides high-quality education to local children.