

## Huntsville, AL

**Choice Neighborhoods Grantees:** City of Huntsville and Huntsville Housing Authority

**Target Public Housing Projects:** Butler Terrace and Butler Terrace Addition

**Target Neighborhood:** Mill Creek

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$1,300,000

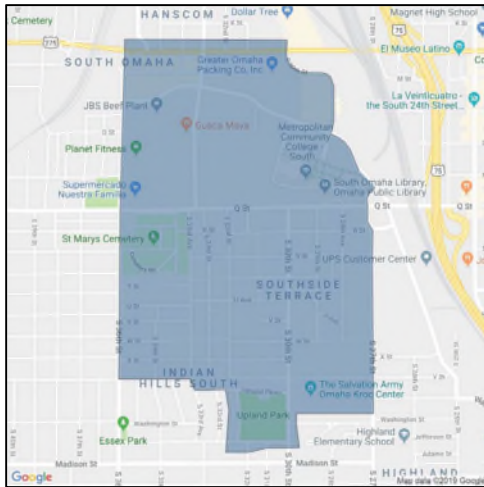
**Key Partners:** Camiros | Arts Huntsville | WellStone | United Way | Thrive Alabama | North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce | Alabama A&M University | Boys & Girls Club of North Alabama | Labor Finders | Invent Communities | Huntsville Utilities | Huntsville Police Department | First Baptist Church Huntsville | Family Services Center | Christian Women's Job Corps | Neighborhood Concepts Inc. | Salvation Army | Huntsville Hospital | Calhoun Community College

### Project Summary:

The Mill Creek neighborhood has long struggled with a high concentration of poverty and disinvestment but is well-poised to benefit from exciting new assets and the City of Huntsville's strong economy. For decades, the Mill Creek neighborhood's physical landscape has been dominated by five public housing sites that were confined to this area. Over time, a lack of typical private-sector housing and commercial investment limited opportunities and gave way to high rates of vacancy and crime. Meanwhile, the neighborhood had been largely disconnected from the City of Huntsville's thriving economy, much of which is based on the U.S. defense industry and the City's early prominent role in the U.S. space program.

With the award of a \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant the Mill Creek community seeks to build upon the assets of the neighborhood and bridge the divide between Mill Creek and the broader city. The neighborhood stands to benefit from being a part of a city that hosts the second largest technology and research park in the nation. Mill Creek is located just west of downtown Huntsville, making it proximate to retail, governmental centers, and health care facilities. Critically, the neighborhood is also home to the nation's largest privately-owned arts facility, the Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment complex, which is located in a former textile mill. With the opening of Lowe Mill in 2004, the area has increasingly become known as a destination for arts, entertainment and cultural events. In addition, the neighborhood is located in a recently designated Opportunity Zone, opening opportunities for future investment.

The City and Huntsville Housing Authority (HHA) will lead the effort to build on this momentum, developing a robust, community-based Transformation Plan. Along with a variety of critical community organizations and residents, key partners include the largest current private-sector housing investor (Invent), a leading nonprofit housing developer (Neighborhood Concepts), a historical university and anchor (Alabama A & M University), Arts Huntsville, and the First Baptist Church of Huntsville. Rather than wait on traditional development interest to shape the community, this team will take the initiative to engage a variety of leading mixed-income housing partners. By leveraging these relationships and resources with the Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant, the City and HHA will secure the required financial backing, community organizing expertise, and equitable vision to build a model mixed-income, mixed-use community.



## Omaha, NE

**Choice Neighborhoods Grantees:** City of Omaha and Omaha Housing Authority

**Target Public Housing Project:** Southside Terrace Garden

**Target Neighborhood:** Southside Terrace – Indian Hills

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$1,300,000

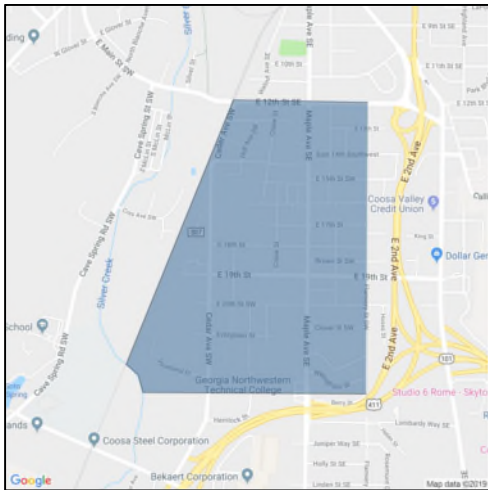
**Key Partners:** Omaha Community Foundation | Sherwood Foundation | Magic City Redevelopment Corporation | The Simple Foundation | The Heartland Workers Center | Spark CDI | LRK Inc. | Omaha Public Schools | Brinshore Development | Purpose Built Communities | Latino Center of the Midlands | Girls, Inc. | Omaha Police Department | Metropolitan Community College | William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation | P.A.C.E.

### Project Summary:

The City of Omaha's Southside Terrace - Indian Hills neighborhood is a diverse community that is home to Latino, White and African American residents, as well as refugees from around the world. With the community's incredible diversity comes unique challenges, including isolation, social fragmentation, public safety concerns and economic struggles. The neighborhood's poverty rate is three times that of the City's, and its violent crime rate is 82 percent higher than the City's as a whole. In the midst of this community sits Southside Terrace Garden Apartments – a 358-unit public housing development which is now severely distressed and functionally obsolete.

In the midst of these challenges, a strong array of community partners are already working to support local residents. The Simple Foundation currently offers a variety of programs to immigrant and refugee residents. The Heartland Workers Center has a strong history with the Latino community, and Spark CDI is active in economic development initiatives. The Southside Terrace - Indian Hills neighborhood also has a variety of developmental and commercial assets, including Metro Community College (MCC), OneWorld Community Health Center, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha Public Library, recreational centers and the UPS Logistics Center and other local employers.

With a \$1.3 million Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant, the City of Omaha and the Omaha Housing Authority will work with local nonprofit partners and community residents to create a comprehensive Transformation Plan for the Southside Terrace - Indian Hills neighborhood and the Southside Terrace Garden Apartments development. The planning process will have a strong emphasis on community engagement. A new community-based organization – the Magic City Redevelopment Corporation – will lead resident engagement efforts, along with a Community Engagement Team comprised of local nonprofits that are already actively serving the community's diverse population. The planning process will utilize evidence and an outcomes-based approach to develop strategies addressing a wide range of areas, including neighborhood development, health care, education, transportation, workforce development, public safety, arts and culture and civic engagement. Through this initiative, residents of the Southside Terrace - Indian Hills neighborhood and Southside Terrace will work with a variety of stakeholders to formulate a plan that will leverage the community's existing assets, strengthen collaboration between diverse populations, and ultimately help build a better future for this unique neighborhood.



## Rome, GA

**Choice Neighborhoods Grantees:** Housing Authority of the City of Rome and City of Rome

**Target Public Housing Project:** John Graham Homes

**Target Neighborhood:** East Rome

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$1,250,000

**Key Partners:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Georgia | Floyd County Health Department | Greater Mount Calvary Baptist Church | Habitat for Humanity Coosa Valley | Restoration Rome | Rome City Schools | YMCA of Rome and Floyd County

### Project Summary:

Rome, Georgia is a small city situated in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, approximately 65 miles northwest of Atlanta. Located outside of the Chattahoochee National Forest, Rome has been named by Forbes as one of the “Best Small Places for Business and Careers.” Conversely, East Rome is one of the most distressed neighborhoods in the City. Surrounded by railroad tracks on one side and a freeway on the other side, the neighborhood is hampered by high rates of abandonment, disinvestment, and long-term vacancy, along with a poverty rate over 40 percent and a Part I violent crime rate that averages two and a half times the rate in the city overall.

East Rome – located in a recently designated Opportunity Zone – stands ready to reverse this trend of disinvestment. Since 2009, the Housing Authority of the City of Rome (Northwest Georgia Housing Authority) has been focusing energy and resources in East Rome, including demolishing the former Altview Terrace public housing complex, buying up blighted property, utilizing opportunities provided by HUD’s Rental Assistance Demonstration, and using Low Income Housing Tax Credits to support revitalization and new construction. In support of these efforts, the City has been targeting code enforcement activities in the neighborhood and implementing a phased approach for sidewalk construction. The City is turning its focus to East Rome, as it winds down its lead role in a comprehensive planning and revitalization initiative in the adjacent South Rome neighborhood. Over the past 19 years, \$60 million in investments have been made in South Rome, many of which also are benefiting residents of East Rome, in particular the construction of the new Anna K. Davie Elementary School, Floyd County Health Department, and Boys & Girls Club.

The \$1,250,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant will be used to bring together East Rome’s already engaged residents and local partners to create a plan to address the community’s most persistent challenges. John Graham Homes – a 67-year-old barracks-style public housing site with substantial structural and design deficiencies – is central to the planning process. Community engagement activities, such as planning action teams, focus groups, surveys, and public meetings, will drive the planning process. Using this community-led approach, East Rome’s planning process will optimize the commitment of local stakeholders, build on successful investments already in place, and organize actions around the strengths of local partners.



## Trenton, NJ

**Choice Neighborhoods Grantees:** Trenton Housing Authority and City of Trenton

**Target Public Housing Project:** Donnelly Homes

**Target Neighborhood:** North Trenton – Battle Monument

**Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount:** \$1,300,000

**Key Partners:** Wallace Roberts and Todd | Smith Family Foundation | Mercer County Community College | Mercer County Workforce Development Board | Mercer County Office of Training & Employment Service | Capital Health | Isles, Inc. | Capital Area YMCA | Trenton Health Team | Grace Cathedral Fellowship Ministries | NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency | NJ State Capital Partnership | College of New Jersey

### Project Summary:

Through its layout and design, the North Trenton – Battle Monument neighborhood commemorates the 1776 Battle of Trenton – a tide-turning event in the Revolutionary War led by General George Washington. Over the centuries that followed, this neighborhood housed generations of new and established Americans who fueled the manufacturing industries of Trenton. While characterized today as distressed from disinvestment, vacancy, and blight, the area contains the ingredients of a thriving neighborhood. Its many assets include compact walkable blocks, functional commercial corridors, easy access to jobs, and an anchor institution, in addition to parks, schools and churches.

The North Trenton – Battle Monument neighborhood is also well positioned to benefit from the nearby Downtown Trenton’s renaissance. New investments in the Capital City’s central business district are likely to spill over onto this historic, largely residential neighborhood. Additionally, Trenton Housing Authority (THA) and the City of Trenton are willing and ready to create an actionable plan to redevelop the distressed target housing development, Donnelly Homes. THA intends to draw from their successful experience of revitalizing dilapidated housing through the HOPE VI program, while the City seeks to seamlessly incorporate Donnelly Homes into their 20-year master plan for Trenton’s growth and development.

The \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant will bring together Trenton’s vast network of partners to co-develop a shared transformation plan that is rooted in the aspirations, culture, and history of the community. The process will be guided by planning and design firm, Wallace Roberts and Todd; informed by Donnelly Homes residents and community leaders; and strongly supported by committed local partners. Robust community engagement efforts will involve resident representation on steering committees and working groups, the launch of a resident leadership series, and the creation of resident ambassadors, among other initiatives. Establishing a multi-dimensional planning process – that taps into local expertise through steering and action committees, ambassadorships, task forces, and community events – will foster a comprehensive transformation plan that is transparent, innovative, and indicative of the rich history of the North Trenton – Battle Monument neighborhood.