



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Public and Indian Housing

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program

FR-6100-N-38

Application Due Date: 08/28/2017

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FR-6100-N-38
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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Program Office:	Public and Indian Housing
Funding Opportunity Title:	Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program
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Overview

For Further Information Contact: Please direct questions regarding the specific program requirements of this Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to the agency contact identified in Section VII. Please direct general questions regarding the FY2017 NOFAs to the Office of Strategic Planning and Management, Grants Management and Oversight Division, at AskGMO@hud.gov.

Additional Overview Information

Incorporation of the General Section. HUD publishes a General Section each fiscal year that contains requirements for all applicants to HUD's various competitive grant programs, including this NOFA. Applications must meet all of the requirements of the General Section in addition to the requirements of this NOFA to be considered and potentially receive funding. The full title of the General Section is the General Section to HUD's Fiscal Year 2017 Notices of Funding Availability for Discretionary Programs. Copies are available at Grants.gov and HUD's [Funds Available](#) page.

1. Participative Planning and Implementation. HUD encourages applicants to ensure, where applicable, public decision making and meaningful participation throughout the visioning, development, and implementation of funded projects. HUD encourages applicants to work with all residents of affected areas, especially communities traditionally marginalized from planning processes. In seeking public participation, applicants and grantees must ensure that all communications are provided in a manner that is effective for persons with hearing, visual, and other communications-related disabilities consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and, as applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d and Executive Order 13166 require that grantees take responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to services, programs, and activities by persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP persons).

2. OMB Approval Number(s): 2577-0269

I. Funding Opportunity Description.

A. Program Description.

1. Purpose and Summary.

The Choice Neighborhoods program leverages significant public and private dollars to support locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Local leaders, residents, and stakeholders, such as public housing authorities, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private developers, come together to create and implement a plan that revitalizes distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood. The program helps communities transform neighborhoods by redeveloping severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant property, housing, businesses, services and schools. To this end, Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals:

1. **Housing:** Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood;
2. **People:** Improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children's education; and
3. **Neighborhood:** Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families' choices about their community.

To achieve these core goals, successful applicants must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or "Transformation Plan." This Transformation Plan becomes the guiding document for the revitalization of the public and/or assisted housing units, while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood.

Experience shows that to successfully develop and implement the Transformation Plan, broad engagement is needed. Successful applicants will need to work with public and private agencies, organizations (including philanthropic and civic organizations), and individuals to gather and leverage the financial and human capital resources needed to support the sustainability of the plan. These efforts should build community support for and involvement in the development and implementation of the plan.

Additionally, past revitalization efforts have demonstrated that even modest physical improvements and investment actions help communities build momentum for change and transition from planning to implementation of that plan. These actions improve neighborhood confidence, sustain the community's energy, attract further engagement, and help convince skeptical stakeholders that positive change is possible. Successful applicants should undertake "doing while planning" projects, and when applicable, Action Activities, during the grant period.

Objectives and Metrics to Measure Long Term Success: Each Choice Neighborhoods grantee is expected to develop metrics based on the objectives listed below in order to measure performance. Grantees are encouraged to develop neighborhood revitalization plans with these

objectives in mind:

1. Housing Objectives: Housing transformed with the assistance of Choice Neighborhoods should be:

a. **Well-Managed and Financially Viable.** Developments that have budgeted appropriately for the rental income that can be generated from the project and meet or exceed industry standards for quality management and maintenance of the property.

b. **Mixed-Income.** Housing affordable to families and individuals with a broad range of incomes including low-income, moderate-income, and market rate or unrestricted.

c. **Energy Efficient, Sustainable, Accessible, Healthy, and Free from Discrimination.** Housing that is well-designed, embraces not only the requirements of accessible design but also concepts of visitability and universal design, has low per unit energy and water consumption and healthy indoor air quality, is built to be resistant to local disaster risk, has affordable broadband Internet access, and is free from discrimination.

2. People Objectives: People that live in the neighborhood, with a primary focus on residents of the housing targeted for revitalization, benefit from:

a. **Effective Education.** A high level of resident access to: high quality early learning programs and services so children enter kindergarten ready to learn; and quality schools and/or educational supports that ultimately prepare students to graduate from high school college- and career-ready.

b. **Employment Opportunities.** The income of neighborhood residents and residents of the target housing development, particularly wage income for non-elderly/non-disabled adult residents, increases over time.

c. **Quality Health Care.** Health for residents over time is as good as or better than that of other households with similar economic and demographic conditions.

d. **Housing Location, Quality, and Affordability.** Residents who, by their own choice, do not return to the development have housing and neighborhood opportunities as good as or better than the opportunities available to those who occupy the redeveloped site.

3. Neighborhood Objectives: Through investments catalyzed with Choice Neighborhoods, the neighborhood enjoys improved:

a. **Private and Public Investment in the Neighborhood.** The neighboring housing has a very low vacancy/abandonment rate, the housing inventory is of high quality, and the neighborhood is mixed income and maintains a mixture of incomes over time.

b. **Amenities.** The distance traveled from the neighborhood to basic services is equal to or less than the distance traveled from the median neighborhood in the metropolitan area. Those basic services include grocery stores, banks, health clinics and doctors' offices, dentist offices, and high quality early learning programs and services.

c. **Effective Public Schools:** Public schools in the target neighborhood are safe and welcoming places for children and their families. In addition, schools have test scores that are as good as or better than the state average or are implementing school reforms that raise student achievement over time and graduate students from high school prepared for college and a career.

d. **Safety:** Residents are living in a safer environment as evidenced by the revitalized neighborhood having dramatically lower crime rates than the neighborhood had prior to redevelopment and maintaining a lower crime rate over time.

2. Changes from Previous NOFA.

- Prior Planning Grant recipients are not eligible to apply for an "Action Activities-only" grant as was allowed in the FY15/16 NOFA.
- Applicants must indicate whether they are applying for a Planning and Action Grant or only a Planning Grant. And, if the former, whether they will accept a Planning-only Grant.
- Deleted rating factors "Neighborhood Selection" and "Creating Lasting Momentum".
- Added a rating factor for applicants to demonstrate support from the local school district.
- In evaluating leverage, HUD will now only consider cash leverage and it is now divided into 2 rating factors. One for leverage to support the planning process and one for leverage for Action Activities.

3. Definitions.

a. Standard Definitions

Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) is a review of impediments or barriers that affect the rights related to fair housing choice, and pertains to program participants in jurisdictions operating under a current Consolidated Plan and public housing agencies operating under a PHA Plan.

Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) is the analysis undertaken pursuant to 24 CFR 5.154. AFH includes an analysis of fair housing data, an assessment of fair housing issues and contributing factors, the prioritization of contributing factors, and the identification of fair housing goals. It is conducted and submitted to HUD using the Assessment Tool. Entities obligated to prepare and submit an AFH are: (1) Jurisdictions and Insular Areas that are required to submit Consolidated Plans for the following programs: (i) The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program (see 24 CFR part 570, subparts D and I); (ii) The Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program (see 24 CFR part 576); (iii) The HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program (see 24 CFR part 92); and (iv) The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program (see 24 CFR part 574); and (2) Public housing agencies (PHAs) receiving assistance under sections 8 or 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f or 42 U.S.C.1437g).

Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) is the person authorized by the E-Biz point of contact in the System for Award Management to submit applications on behalf of the organization. The AOR is listed in item 21 on the SF-424.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) is a directory of the various Federal programs, projects, services and activities that offer financial and non financial assistance and benefits to the American public. CFDA Number is the unique number assigned to each program, project, service or activity listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA).

Consolidated Plan is a document developed by states and local jurisdictions, which they complete by engaging in a participatory process to assess their affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions, and to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions with funding from formula grant programs. (See 24 CFR 91 for more information about the Consolidated Plan and related Annual Action Plan.)

Contract means a legal instrument by which a non-Federal entity purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a Federal award. The term as used with respect to awards, subawards, and cooperative agreements subject to 2 CFR part 200 does not include a legal instrument, even if the non-Federal entity considers it a contract, when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a Federal award or subaward. (See 2 CFR 200.22 and 200.92.)

Contractor means an entity that receives a contract.

Deficiency – Deficiency is information missing or omitted within a submitted application. Deficiencies typically involve missing documents, information on a form, or some other type of unsatisfied information requirement (e.g., an unsigned form, unchecked box, etc.). Depending on specific criteria, deficiencies may be either curable or non-curable.

- Curable Deficiency – Applicants may correct a curable deficiency with timely action. To be curable the deficiency must:
 - Not be a threshold requirement;
 - Not influence how an applicant is ranked or scored versus other applicants; and
 - Be remedied within the time frame specified in the notice of deficiency.
- Non-Curable Deficiency – An applicant cannot correct a non-curable deficiency after the submission deadline. Non-curable deficiencies are deficiencies that if corrected would change an applicant’s score or rank versus other applicants. Non-curable deficiencies may result in an application being marked ineligible, or otherwise adversely affect an application’s score and final determination

DUNS Number is the nine-digit identification number assigned to a business or organization by Dun & Bradstreet and provides a means of identifying business entities on a location-specific basis. Requests for a DUNS number can be made by visiting the Online DUNS Request Portal.

Eligibility Requirements – Eligibility requirements are those requirements that must be met for an application to be eligible for funding. Deficiencies in meeting an eligibility requirement may be categorized as either curable or non-curable.

Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) is a database that has been established to track contractor misconduct and performance.

Grants.gov is the website that serves as the Federal government’s central portal for searching for and applying for grants throughout the Federal government.

Non-Federal Entity means a state, local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education (IHE), or non-profit organization that carries out a Federal award as a recipient or subrecipient.

Pass-through Entity means a non-Federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal program.

Personally identifiable information (PII), as defined in [Office of Management and Budget M-07-16](#), is any information which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, social security number, biometric records, etc. alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information which is linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, etc.

Point of Contact (POC) is the person who may be contacted with questions about the application submitted by the AOR. The point of contact is listed in item 8F on the SF-424.

Preferred Sustainability Status Communities (PSS) for the purposes of HUD's FY2017 funding competitions, are communities that have received PSS under HUD's FY2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program and/or HUD's FY2011 Community Challenge Planning Grant Program. [Click here for list](#). Promise Zones are federally-designated, high-poverty urban, rural and tribal communities where the Federal government will partner with and invest in communities to accomplish these goals: create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime.

Promotores/Promotoras are Spanish-speaking Community Health Workers who work in their communities to reduce barriers to health services and make health care systems more responsive.

Recipient means a non-Federal entity that receives an award directly from HUD to carry out an activity under a HUD program.

Section 3 Business Concern means a business concern (1) that is 51 percent or more owned by Section 3 residents; or (2) of which at least 30 percent of permanent, full-time employees are currently Section 3 residents, or were Section 3 Residents within three years of the date of first employment with the business concern; or (3) that provides evidence of a commitment to subcontract over 25 percent of the dollar award of all subcontracts to be awarded to business concerns that meet the qualifications in this definition.

Section 3 Residents means: 1) Public housing residents; or 2) Low and very-low income persons, as defined in 24 CFR 135.5, who live in the metropolitan area or non-metropolitan county where a HUD-assisted project for housing or community development is located.

Standard Form 424 (SF-424) is the Application for Federal Assistance Programs required by discretionary grant programs.

Subaward means an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not

include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a Federal program. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through entity considers a contract.

Subrecipient means a non-Federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a HUD program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. A subrecipient may also receive other Federal awards directly from a Federal awarding agency (including HUD).

System for Award Management (SAM), located at the website sam.gov, is the official U.S. Government system that consolidated the capabilities of Central Contractor Registry (CCR), Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) and the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA). Registration with [Sam.gov](http://sam.gov) is required for submission of applications via grants.gov.

Threshold Requirement – Threshold requirements are a type of eligibility requirement. Threshold requirements must be met in order for an application to be reviewed. Threshold requirements are not curable. Threshold requirements are listed in Section III.C.1. Threshold Requirements of this Program NOFA.

Applicants must ensure their application package addresses all threshold requirements. Please check your application carefully!

b. Program Definitions

For purposes of the Choice Neighborhoods program, the following definitions of key terms apply. As needed, other definitions relevant to specific thresholds, requirements, and rating factors will be provided in those sections of the NOFA.

1. Action Activities. The term “Action Activities” refers to any Planning and Action Grant funds over \$350,000 awarded for limited, physical neighborhood improvements during the three-year Planning and Action Grant period. Action Activity funds are flexible funds that must be responsive to the neighborhoods’ needs. They must be used for physical community development or economic development projects that enhance and accelerate the transformation of the neighborhood. The projects funded may also build community capacity and social cohesion through the way in which the projects are designed, led, and implemented. Action Activities cannot be used for non-physical uses, such as supportive services, administrative costs (e.g. staffing, meeting space), and marketing. These funds must not be used for basic infrastructure or as a substitute for basic municipal services. Additionally, funds must not be used for housing development activities (including the public or HUD-assisted housing targeted in this application), such as acquisition, relocation, demolition and remediation, rehabilitation, or construction. These funds should be used for innovative solutions to neighborhood challenges and must be used for projects that can be completed within the grant term. Uses of funds are limited to:

a. Reclaiming and recycling vacant property into community gardens, pocket parks, farmers markets, or land banking (with maintenance);

b. Beautification, placemaking, and community arts projects, such as creative signage to enhance neighborhood branding, murals and sculptures, specialty streetscaping, or garden tool loan programs;

c. Homeowner and business façade improvement programs;

d. Neighborhood broadband/Wi-Fi infrastructure and installation (internet service must be paid for by non-Choice Neighborhoods funds);

e. Fresh food initiatives, such as farmers markets and mobile fresh food vendors; and

f. Gap financing for economic development projects that are ready for implementation and have secured all the necessary financing except a modest "gap".

If during the planning process, another use is identified, HUD has the discretion to consider whether the use is allowable based on the criteria listed in the opening paragraph of this definition.

2. Affordable Housing. The term “affordable housing” includes, in the context of a Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan, housing for which the owner or purchaser of the project has recorded a HUD-approved affordability use restriction for households earning up to 120 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) for no fewer than 20 years. Such housing is not considered replacement housing for the purposes of the one-for-one replacement requirement. The affordability restrictions shall be contained in a legally enforceable document recorded in the appropriate recorder’s office or registry of deeds and consistent with the long-term viability of the project as rental or homeownership housing.

3. Anchor Institutions. Anchor institutions are place-based entities with regional significance and are permanently rooted, economic drivers in specific locales generating jobs, creating local business opportunities, and contributing significantly to the development of human, social, and cultural capital. They include universities, hospitals, sports facilities, performing arts and other major cultural facilities (such as museums and central libraries), and large corporations.

4. Assisted Housing. In this NOFA, the term “assisted housing” (used interchangeably with “HUD-assisted housing”) means housing assisted under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f and 42 U.S.C. 1437g) (excluding tenant-based vouchers and where fewer than 50 percent of the units in a housing development receive project-based voucher assistance), section 221(d)(3) or section 236 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715 and 12 U.S.C. 1715z-1), section 202 of Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q), section 811 of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 8013), and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, 25 U.S.C. § 4101, et seq (Indian Housing). In the case of Indian Housing, this includes only single family and duplex rental housing that is clustered in a development and/or multifamily rental housing projects in which at least 50 percent of the units are assisted.

5. Co-Applicant. Co-Applicant means any entity with which the Lead Applicant chooses to apply for funding under this NOFA. A Co-Applicant must also be an Eligible Applicant. The Co-Applicant will also sign the Planning Grant Agreement or Planning and Action Grant Agreement and be responsible for implementing the activities identified in the Transformation Plan, but will not directly receive access to funding through HUD’s Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS). A Co-Applicant is not required.

6. Commitment to enter into a Housing Assistance Payments Contract (CHAP). Document provided to the PHA or owner for projects that have been selected during the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) competition under the first component of the Demonstration describing the terms HUD will enter into a HAP contract with the project owner.

7. Early Action Activities. The term “Early Action Activities” refers to up to \$50,000 of the grant funds that may be used toward limited, physical neighborhood improvements during the planning process. Early Action Activities are similar to Action Activities, but must be used during the first two-years and must support the planning process through engaging the community, building capacity, fostering social cohesion, or otherwise reinforcing the planning process. Like Action Activities, they must also be responsive to the neighborhoods’ needs and must be used for physical community development or economic development projects that enhance and accelerate the transformation of the neighborhood. Early Action Activities funds are for physical improvements, and must not be used for non-physical uses, such as supportive services, administrative costs, and marketing. These funds must not be used for basic infrastructure or as a substitute for basic municipal services. Additionally, funds must not be used for redevelopment of the public or HUD-assisted housing targeted in this application, including acquisition, relocation, demolition and remediation, rehabilitation, or construction. These funds should be used for innovative solutions to neighborhood challenges and must be used for projects that can be completed within the first two years. Uses of funds are limited to:

a. Reclaiming and recycling vacant property into community gardens, pocket parks, farmers markets, or land banking (with maintenance);

b. Beautification, placemaking, and community arts projects, such as creative signage to enhance neighborhood branding, murals and sculptures, specialty streetscaping, or garden tool loan programs;

c. Homeowner and business façade improvement programs;

d. Neighborhood broadband/Wi-Fi infrastructure and installation (internet service must be paid for by non-Choice Neighborhoods funds);

e. Fresh food initiatives, such as farmers markets and mobile fresh food vendors; and

f. Gap financing for economic development projects that are ready to implement and have secured all the necessary funding except for a modest gap.

8. Families. The term “families” has the meaning provided in section 3(B)(3) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a). In the case of tribal entities, the term “family” has the meaning provided in section 4103 (6) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, 25 U.S.C.

9. Lead Applicant. Lead Applicant means the primary entity responsible for implementing the activities identified in the application. The Lead Applicant must meet the qualifications of an Eligible Applicant. The Lead Applicant will sign the Grant Agreement and is the sole entity that will have access to HUD’s Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS) in order to drawdown Choice Neighborhoods funding.

10. Livability Principles. Livability principles are principles jointly adopted by HUD, EPA and DOT to support federal neighborhood and community development initiatives. The

Livability Principles are as follows: provide more transportation choices; promote equitable, affordable housing; enhance economic competitiveness; support existing communities; coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment; and value communities and neighborhoods. For further information, see www.sustainablecommunities.gov.

11. Local Government. The term “local government” shall have the same meaning as “unit of general local government” in section 102(a)(1) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302): The term “unit of general local government” means any city, county, town, township, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State; Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, or a general purpose political subdivision thereof; a combination of such political subdivisions that, except as provided in section 5306(d)(4) of this title, is recognized by the Secretary; the District of Columbia; and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Such term also includes a State or a local public body or agency (as defined in section 4512 of this title), community association, or other entity, which is approved by the Secretary for the purpose of providing public facilities or services to a new community as part of a program meeting the eligibility standards of section 4513 of this title or title IV of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.

12. Low-performing School. The term low-performing school means a school receiving assistance through title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), that is in corrective action or restructuring in the State, as determined under section 1116 of the ESEA, and a secondary school (either middle or high school) in the State that is equally as low-achieving as these Title I schools and are eligible for, but does not receive Title I funds.

13. Neighborhood. The neighborhood is the geographic area within which the activities of the Transformation Plan shall focus. HUD understands neighborhood boundaries are not fixed like municipal or county boundaries. The Department also recognizes neighborhoods do not necessarily follow statistical boundaries, such as Census Tracts. For Choice Neighborhoods, HUD will rely on applicants to identify boundaries for the target neighborhood generally accepted as a neighborhood. In many communities, those typical neighborhood boundaries are delineated by major streets or physical topography. The neighborhood must be larger than just the footprint of the distressed public or HUD-assisted housing targeted in the application, but cannot encompass more than one municipal jurisdiction and is typically an area less than two miles wide.

14. Neighborhood Assets. Neighborhood assets include five main categories:

- a. Developmental assets that allow residents to attain the skills needed to be successful in all aspects of daily life (e.g., educational institutions, early learning centers, and health resources);
- b. Commercial assets that are associated with production, employment, transactions, and sales (e.g., labor force and retail establishments);
- c. Recreational assets that create value in a neighborhood beyond work and education (e.g., parks, open space, community gardens, athletics and arts organizations);
- d. Physical assets that are associated with the built environment and physical infrastructure (e.g., housing, commercial buildings, and roads); and
- e. Social assets that establish well-functioning social interactions (e.g., public safety and community engagement).

15. Nonprofit Organization. Nonprofits eligible to be an applicant under this NOFA are

entities classified as such in accordance with section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code or have been designated as such by their state government. A nonprofit organization can be organized for the following purposes: charitable, religious, educational, scientific, or other similar purposes in the public interest. To obtain tax-exempt status, qualified organizations must file an application with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and receive designation as such by the IRS. For more information, go to www.irs.gov. Entities in the process of applying for tax-exempt status, but have not yet received nonprofit designation from the IRS by the application deadline date, will not be considered an eligible applicant. All nonprofit applicants must submit either their IRS determination letter to prove their 501(c) status or the letter from the state government to prove their nonprofit status.

16. Part I Violent Crimes. Part I violent crimes shall have the same meaning used by the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Uniform Crime Report. Aggravated assault, rape, murder, and robbery are classified as Part I violent crimes.

17. Persistently lowest-achieving school. The term persistently lowest-achieving school means, as determined by the State, or Bureau of Indian Education as applicable, any school receiving assistance through Title I that is in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and that:

a. Is among the lowest-achieving five percent of Title I schools or the lowest-achieving five Title I schools in in the State, whichever number of schools is greater; or

b. Is a high school that has had a graduation rate, that is less than 60 percent over a number of years.

18. Physical Needs Assessment. A Physical Needs Assessment should be prepared by an independent registered engineer or architect that conducts a physical inspection of at least 10 percent of each dwelling unit set (i.e. a grouping of units within a building, which share characteristics, such as: number of bedrooms, number of full and half baths, ceiling height, and floor area) in order to ensure a representative sample of dwelling units are assessed and at least 50 percent of the non-dwelling space (i.e. exteriors, envelopes, non-dwelling units, grounds, common space and systems). Generally, a PNA identifies all of the work needed to bring the housing project up to the applicable modernization and energy conservation standards. Typically, a PNA takes into account the life cycle replacement costs of the housing project's entire inventory of capital items for a period of 20 years; however, for the purposes of the rating factors in this NOFA, HUD will only consider the cost of immediate needs for rehabilitation, defined as capital replacements to be conducted in Year 1 of the PNA's replacement schedule. Capital Needs Assessments, Project Capital Needs Assessments and Physical Condition Assessments are acceptable formats.

19. Planning Coordinator. A Planning Coordinator is a person or entity separate from the Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant procured to help the grantee coordinate the planning process. The Planning Coordinator should have significant experience in leading comprehensive neighborhood planning processes that lead to implementation activities and improved outcomes as well as building the capacity of local entities. Examples of Planning Coordinators include but are not limited to community-based organizations, redevelopment authorities, and private or non-profit planning firms. The Planning Coordinator is not only a local partner/stakeholder, but also a single person/entity selected to assist the grantee in carrying out the grant activities and in increasing grantee capacity to carry out the grant activities. Having a Planning Coordinator is

optional.

20. Public Housing Agency. The term “public housing agency” has the meaning provided in section 3(b)(6) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a).

21. Public Housing. The term “public housing” refers to housing funded under an Annual Contributions Contract and in accordance with section 9 of the US Housing Act of 1937. A public housing project is a group of housing units having a single Project Number assigned by the Director of Public Housing of a HUD Field Office and has, or had (in the case of previously demolished units) housing units under an Annual Contributions Contract. If a PHA had two distinct projects, with different project numbers, under its original ACC, and those projects were combined into a single project number in the Inventory Management System (IMS)/Public Housing Information Center (PIC) for the purposes of implementing HUD’s project-based budgeting requirements using Asset Management Project (AMP) numbers, the applicant may use the original project number to identify the public housing project targeted by the application. Applicants must be clear throughout their application as to the project they are targeting.

22. RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC). Contract executed by HUD and the PHA or owner, following HUD approval of the submitted Financing Plan, that describes the terms and conditions of the conversion.

23. Replacement Housing. Replacement housing is rental housing that will replace demolished, disposed of, or otherwise reduced public or assisted housing. It includes housing assisted under section 8 and 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f and 42 U.S.C. 1437g), section 202 of Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q), and section 811 of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 8013). With regard to section 8 housing, project-based vouchers (section 8o(13) of the US Housing Act of 1937) and Project-Based Rental Assistance as provided in a RAD conversion are included in this definition, but tenant-based vouchers are excluded except as permitted by HUD. To satisfy the one-for-one replacement requirement through acquisition, the replacement unit must not have been receiving assistance prior to submitting the application under the sections listed above in this paragraph. For example, you cannot acquire a Section 202 funded property and claim that as replacement housing.

24. Severely Distressed Housing.

a. In accordance with Section 24(j)(2) of the 1937 Act, the term means a public and/or assisted housing project (or building in a project) that:

(1) Requires major redesign, reconstruction, redevelopment, or partial or total demolition to correct serious deficiencies in the original design (including inappropriately high population density), deferred maintenance, physical deterioration or obsolescence of major systems, and other deficiencies in the physical plan of the project;

(2) Is a significant contributing factor to the physical decline of, and disinvestment by public and private entities in, the surrounding neighborhood;

(3) (a) Is occupied predominantly by families who are very low-income families with children, have unemployed members, and are dependent on various forms of public assistance; (b) has high rates of vandalism and criminal activity (including drug-related criminal activity) in comparison to other housing in the area; or (c) is lacking in sufficient appropriate transportation,

supportive services, economic opportunity, schools, civic and religious institutions, and public services, resulting in severe social distress in the project;

(4) Cannot be revitalized through assistance under other programs, such as the Capital Fund and Operating Fund programs for public housing under the 1937 Act, or the programs under sections 9 or 14 of the 1937 Act (as in effect before the effective date under section 503(a) of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-276, approved October 21, 1998)), because of cost constraints and inadequacy of available amounts; and

(5) In the case of an individual building that currently forms a portion of the public and/or assisted housing project targeted by the application to this NOFA: (a) Is sufficiently separable from the remainder of the project of which the building is part, such that the revitalization of the building is feasible; or (b) Was part of the targeted public and/or assisted housing project that has been legally vacated or demolished, but for which HUD has not yet provided replacement housing assistance (other than tenant-based assistance). “Replacement housing assistance” is defined as funds that have been furnished by HUD to perform major rehabilitation on, or reconstruction of, the public and/or assisted housing units that have been legally vacated or demolished.

b. A severely distressed project that has been legally vacated or demolished (but for which HUD has not yet provided replacement housing assistance, other than tenant-based assistance) must have met the definition of physical distress not later than the day the demolition application approval letter was dated by HUD, or in the case of Indian Housing, not later than the day the tribal entity signed the written notification of demolition provided to HUD in accordance with 24 CFR1000.134.

25. Supportive Services. The term “supportive services” includes all activities that promote upward mobility, self-sufficiency, or improved quality of life, including such activities as literacy training, activities that promote early learning and the continuum of educational supports, remedial and continuing education, job training, financial literacy instruction, day care, youth services, aging-in-place, public transportation, physical and mental health services, economic development activities, and other programs the community needs.

26. Transformation Plan. The Transformation Plan is a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy proposed which, when implemented, will achieve the three core goals of Choice Neighborhoods (Housing, People, Neighborhood).

27. Tribal Entities. Tribal entities include Indian tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities, as defined in sections 4(13) and 4(22), respectively, of the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

4. Resources.

- [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- [HUD Funds available](#)
- [Code of Conduct list](#)
- [SAM](#)
- [Dun & Bradstreet](#)
- [Do Not Pay](#)

- [FAPIS](#)

B. Authority.

The funding authority for Choice Neighborhoods grants under this NOFA is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31), approved May 5, 2017. The program authority for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is Section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 v), (1937 Act), as amended by the FY2017 appropriations law.

II. Award Information.

A. Available Funds.

\$5,000,000 is available through this NOFA.

Additional funds may become available for award under this NOFA as a result of HUD's efforts to recapture unused funds, use carryover funds, or because of the availability of additional appropriated funds. Use of these funds is subject to statutory constraints. All awards are subject to the applicable funding restrictions described in the General Section and to those contained in this NOFA.

B. Number of Awards.

HUD expects to make approximately 6 awards from the funds available under this NOFA. HUD anticipates awarding 3 Planning and Action Grants not to exceed \$1.3 million each and 3 Planning Grants not to exceed \$350,000 each. If funds are appropriated by Congress, HUD may, at its discretion, use FY2018 Choice Neighborhoods funding to make additional awards under this NOFA. Applicants must indicate if they are requesting a Planning and Action Grant or a Planning Grant and HUD will make its selection in accordance with section V.B.2 of this NOFA.

C. Minimum/Maximum Award Information.

Planning and Action Grant awards may be up to \$1.3 million. Planning Grants awards may be up to \$350,000.

Estimated Total Funding:	\$5,000,000
Minimum Award Amount:	\$1 Per Project Period
Maximum Award Amount:	\$1,300,000 Per Project Period

D. Period of Performance.

The term of a Planning and Action Grant is 3 1/2 years from the date of the Grant Agreement execution. The term of a Planning Grant is 2 years from the date of the Grant Agreement execution. HUD anticipates announcing awards under this NOFA approximately 5 months after the application due date.

Estimated Project Start Date:	02/01/2018
Estimated Project End Date:	07/31/2021
Length of Project Periods:	Other
Length of Project Periods Explanation of Other:	3 1/2 years for Planning and Action Grants; 2 years for Planning Grants

E. Type of Funding Instrument.

Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
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III. Eligibility Information.

A. Eligible Applicants.

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility:

Eligible applicants under this NOFA are Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), local governments, tribal entities, and nonprofits. Refer to the definitions in section I.A.3.b for definitions of these terms.

Key Eligibility Criteria. There are three key eligibility criteria for Choice Neighborhoods funding. In addition to being an eligible applicant, the application must also demonstrate the proposal targets an eligible housing project located in an eligible neighborhood.

1. Eligible Applicants. PHAs, local governments, tribal entities, and nonprofits are eligible to apply. See Sections I.A.3.b for definitions of related terms. Additionally, the following criteria must be met, as relevant, in order to comply with this requirement:

a. **Troubled Status for PHAs.** This applies to PHA applicants. If a PHA was designated as troubled by HUD pursuant to section 6(j)(2) of the 1937 Act on the most recently released Operational Troubled List, HUD will use documents and information available to it to determine whether that PHA qualifies as an eligible applicant. PHAs designated as troubled are strongly encouraged to consider partnering with another entity (such as a local government or a nonprofit) to serve as the Lead Applicant for this Choice Neighborhoods grant. In accordance with section 24(j) of the 1937 Act, a troubled PHA may still be eligible to apply if it:

(1) Is designated as troubled principally for reasons that will not affect its capacity to carry out a revitalization program;

(2) Is making substantial progress toward eliminating the deficiencies of the agency that

resulted in its troubled status;

(3) Has not been found to be in noncompliance with fair housing or other civil rights requirements; or

(4) Is otherwise determined by HUD to be capable of carrying out a revitalization program.

b. **Certification for Multifamily Assisted Property Owners.** If the Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant is the owner of the assisted property that is the subject of the Choice Neighborhoods activity grant, the Applicant is required to submit form HUD-2530, Previous Participation Certification. If the property listed has defaulted on a mortgage loan or has less than satisfactory review ratings (physical inspections, management and financial reviews), HUD will use documents and information available to it to determine whether the owner of the property qualifies as an eligible applicant. Approvals of entities that have defaulted or received unsatisfactory review ratings will be subjected to HUD's Previous Participation clearance review process. Applicants may still be eligible to apply for Choice Neighborhoods funding if HUD deems the applicant to be making substantial progress in addressing the deficiencies related to such default or review rating. Multifamily assisted property owners with defaults or less than satisfactory review ratings are strongly encouraged to consider partnering with another entity (such as a local government or a nonprofit) to serve as the Lead Applicant for this Choice Neighborhoods grant. This requirement is not applicable to applications targeting public housing or Indian housing.

c. **Nonprofit Applicant.** For a nonprofit to demonstrate eligibility as a Lead or Co-Applicant, either an Internal Revenue Service determination letter indicating the organization's 501(c) status or the letter from the state government or tribe designating the organization's nonprofit status must be submitted in the attachments.

d. **Co-Applicants.** To demonstrate a Co-Applicant partnership, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Letter of Agreement must be provided, signed by the executive of each entity. The MOU or Letter of Agreement must demonstrate a commitment to work collaboratively throughout the entirety of the grant to develop a Transformation Plan and identify which party will be served as the Lead Applicant.

e. **Applicants that are not the owner of the target housing project.** If the owner of the target housing project is not the Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant for this grant, a letter from the owner indicating its support for your organization to submit this grant application and work collaboratively throughout the planning process must be included in this application.

2. Eligible Target Housing. Each application must focus on the revitalization of at least one severely distressed public and/or assisted housing project. The definition of severely distressed housing from section 24(j)(2) of the 1937 Act is included in section I.A.3.b along with definitions of "public housing" and "assisted housing". You must demonstrate in your application the targeted housing is eligible under this NOFA (i.e. is public and/or assisted housing) and meets the definition of severely distressed. If the targeted project(s) is/are not eligible housing and is/are not severely distressed, your application will not be considered for funding. You must identify the housing project(s) you are targeting on the Key Eligibility Data form included the attachments section of your application. You must also use the Certification of Severe Physical Distress form (HUD-53232) and include it in the attachments section of your application. The certification must be signed by an engineer or architect licensed by a state

licensing board. The license does not need to have been issued in the same state as the severely distressed project. The engineer or architect must include his or her license number and state of registration on the certification. The engineer or architect may not be an employee of the Lead Applicant, Co-Applicant (if any), Planning Coordinator (if any), the project's owner, the public housing authority (if applicable), or a unit of local government in which the housing is located. If this application targets more than one public and/or assisted housing project, each project must meet this definition and be listed on the severe distress certification form.

3. Eligible Neighborhoods. Eligible neighborhoods for Choice Neighborhoods grant funds are neighborhoods:

a. with at least 20 percent of the residents estimated to be in poverty or have extremely low incomes based on the most recent data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau; and

b. experiencing distress related to at least one of the following:

(1) high crime; defined as where either the Part I violent crime rate (measured as Part I Violent Crimes per 1000 persons) over the three years 2014-2016 is at least 1.5 times the per capita Part I violent crime rate (measured as Part I Violent Crimes per 1000 persons) of the city or, where no city data is available, county/parish in which the neighborhood is located over the same time frame; or the rate is greater than 18 crimes per 1000 persons; OR

(2) high vacancy or, for applications targeting Indian housing, substandard homes; defined as where either the most current rate within the last year of long-term vacant or substandard homes is at least 1.5 times higher than that of the county/parish; or the rate is greater than 4 percent.

In order to demonstrate compliance with this threshold, the following criteria apply:

(1) The definition of "neighborhood" from Section I.A.3.b applies. Note: HUD reserves the right to ask applicants to provide evidence that the target neighborhood boundary is generally accepted. Such evidence might include planning, community development or zoning maps which have been adopted by a public jurisdiction.

(2) For the purposes of establishing neighborhood eligibility and to assign points for certain rating factors, HUD has created a mapping tool that will overlay the locally defined neighborhood boundaries with data associated with that area and estimate the rates of certain indicators in that neighborhood using a proportional allocation methodology. HUD will calculate the poverty rate, extremely low-income rate, and residential vacancy rate for the target area as well as other measures of distress. For example, if census tracts are the smallest statistical boundary for the available data and the locally defined neighborhood is partially within two different census tracts, the poverty rate will be calculated based on the portion of the neighborhood housing units located in each tract. In this example, 80 percent of the housing units in the locally defined neighborhood are in a tract with a poverty rate of 40 percent and 20 percent of the units are in a tract with a poverty rate of 10 percent. The "neighborhood poverty rate" would be calculated as: $(80\% \times 40\%) + (20\% \times 10\%) = 34\%$. You must draw the boundaries of the target neighborhood using the mapping tool posted on the FY2017 NOFA and Funding Information page at www.hud.gov/cn and provide a pdf of your eligible neighborhood, as produced and emailed to the user by the mapping tool, in the attachments section of your application. HUD will not accept additional documentation and will make the final

determination on compliance with the threshold.

(3) As applicable, you must provide the data on crime (data is described in the rating factor in Section V.A.1.B.2.c) or substandard housing (only for applications that target Indian housing, and data is described in the rating factor in Section V.A.1.B.2.b) for the neighborhood and the city or county as a whole.

HUD does not award grants to individuals. HUD will not evaluate applications from ineligible applicants.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching.

This Program requires an applicant to leverage resources through cost sharing or matching as described below.

HUD is required by section 24(c)(1)(A) of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437v(c)(1)(A)) to include the requirement for matching funds for all grants made under section 24, which includes Choice Neighborhoods. By the end of the grant term, you are required to have matching funds in the amount of five percent of the grant amount in cash or in-kind donations. You **may NOT** include amounts from HOPE VI program funding, including HOPE VI Revitalization, HOPE VI Demolition, HOPE VI Neighborhood Networks, HOPE VI Main Street grants, Choice Neighborhoods Implementation, or Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants. This is considered an Additional Requirements to be Rated requirement under section III.C.4 and is included in the Choice Neighborhoods Application Certifications form.

Grantees will be required to show evidence that matching resources were actually received and used for their intended purposes through quarterly reports as the project proceeds. Sources of matching funds may be substituted after grant award, as long as the dollar requirement is met.

Grantees must pursue and enforce any commitment (including commitments for services) obtained from any public or private entity for any contribution or commitment to the project or surrounding area that was part of the match amount.

C. Threshold Requirements.

Applicants who fail to meet any of the following threshold eligibility requirements will be deemed ineligible. Applications from ineligible applicants will not be evaluated. See also Section I.A.3. Definitions.

1. Timely Submission of Applications – Applications submitted after the deadline stated within this NOFA and that do not meet the requirements of the grace period policy will be marked late. Late applications are deemed ineligible and will not be considered for funding. See also Section IV Application and Submission Information, part D. Application Submission Dates and Times.
2. Resolution of Civil Rights Matters. Outstanding civil rights matters must be resolved before the application deadline. Applicants who after review are confirmed to have civil rights matters unresolved at the application deadline will be deemed ineligible; the application will receive no

further review, will not be rated and ranked, and will not receive funding.

a. Applicants having any of the charges, cause determinations, lawsuits, or letters of findings referenced in subparagraphs (a) – (e) that have not been resolved to HUD’s satisfaction before or on the application deadline date are ineligible for funding. Such matters include:

- (1) Charges from HUD concerning a systemic violation of the Fair Housing Act or receipt of a cause determination from a substantially equivalent state or local fair housing agency concerning a systemic violation of a substantially equivalent state or local fair housing law proscribing discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or familial status;
- (2) Status as a defendant in a Fair Housing Act lawsuit filed by the Department of Justice alleging a pattern or practice of discrimination or denial of rights to a group of persons raising an issue of general public importance under 42 U.S.C. 3614(a);
- (3) Status as a defendant in any other lawsuit filed or joined by the Department of Justice, or in which the Department of Justice has intervened, or filed an amicus brief or statement of interest, alleging a pattern or practice or systemic violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Americans with Disabilities Act or a claim under the False Claims Act related to fair housing, non-discrimination, or civil rights generally including an alleged failure to affirmatively further fair housing;
- (4) Receipt of a letter of findings identifying systemic non-compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; or the Americans with Disabilities Act; or
- (5) Receipt of a cause determination from a substantially equivalent state or local fair housing agency concerning a systemic violation of provisions of a state or local law prohibiting discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or lawful source of income.

b. HUD will determine if actions to resolve the charge, cause determination, lawsuit, or letter of findings taken before the application deadline date will resolve the matter. Examples of actions that may be sufficient to resolve the matter include, but are not limited to:

- Current compliance with a voluntary compliance agreement signed by all the parties;
- Current compliance with a HUD-approved conciliation agreement signed by all the parties;
- Current compliance with a conciliation agreement signed by all the parties and approved by the state governmental or local administrative agency with jurisdiction over the matter;
- Current compliance with a consent order or consent decree;
- Current compliance with a final judicial ruling or administrative ruling or decision; or
- Dismissal of charges.

Additional Requirements to be Rated. All Lead Applicants and Co-Applicants and

applications must meet all the additional requirements stated under this “Additional Requirements to be Rated” section in order to be rated and ranked. Applicants must demonstrate compliance with these additional requirements through the information provided in their application, unless instructed otherwise in this NOFA. HUD will screen for technical (not substantive) deficiencies and administer a cure period as described in sections IV.D.4 and V.B.2. Applicants must review and follow documentation requirements provided in this “Additional Requirements to be Rated” section and the instructions on application organization, content and submission provided in section IV.B. Required forms, certifications and assurances must be included in the Choice Neighborhoods application and will be available at <http://www.grants.gov>.

3. Standard Forms. For the Choice Neighborhoods application, the required standard forms are: Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424), Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL), Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report (HUD-2880); and Third Party Documentation Transmittal (HUD-96011).

4. Choice Neighborhoods Applicant Certifications. You must include in your application a certification from the Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant (if any) (and the Chairman of the PHA Board of Commissioners if the Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant is a PHA) to the requirements listed in the Choice Neighborhoods Applicant Certifications. You must include this certification in your attachments. By providing this certification, you also attest you will meet the Match Requirement from III.B of this NOFA.

5. Number of Applications and Public and/or Assisted Housing Projects.

(1) A Planning Coordinator may participate in a maximum of two applications under this NOFA. If this entity participates in more than two applications, all applications in which they are a participant will be deemed ineligible.

(2) You may only submit one application per locality, defined as the area within the boundary of your local government, or in the case of a tribal entity, the boundary of your Indian area as defined in 4(11) of the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996. There is no limit to the number of public and/or assisted housing projects per application, so long as all are within the boundaries of the neighborhood.

(3) If HUD receives electronically multiple versions of an application, HUD will review the last version of the application **received** by Grants.gov meeting the timely receipt requirements. All other applications (i.e., prior versions) will not be considered eligible. If applicants find, after submitting an application, they want to amend or adjust their application and it is prior to the deadline date, applicants **must resubmit the entire application**, including all fax transmissions previously sent, to ensure that HUD gets a complete application.

6. Relation to prior HOPE VI Revitalization Grants. Public housing projects previously funded through a HOPE VI Revitalization grant may not be the target public housing project of a Choice Neighborhoods grant application. However, they may be located within the Transformation Plan neighborhood.

7. Relation to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Capital Fund Recovery

Competition (CFRC) Grants. Public housing projects previously funded through an ARRA CFRC grant under Category 2 (Public Housing Transformation), Category 3 (Gap Financing for Projects that are Stalled Due to Financing Issues), or Category 4 Option 1 (Creation of Energy Efficient, Green Communities, Substantial Rehabilitation or New Construction) may not be the target public housing project of a Choice Neighborhoods grant application. However, such projects may be located within the Transformation Plan neighborhood.

8. Relation to prior Choice Neighborhoods Grants. Public and/or assisted housing projects and the neighborhoods in which they are located previously funded through a Choice Neighborhoods Planning or Implementation Grant may not be the target housing and neighborhood of a Choice Neighborhoods application under this NOFA.

9. Relation to Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Applicants. PHAs that have applied for RAD, received a Commitment to enter into a Housing Assistance Payments Contract (CHAP) (either a Portfolio award that covers the property proposed or a Multiphase award) covering the property proposed and are planning on demolition and new construction or major rehabilitation or reconstruction may apply for a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant provided they have not yet received a RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC) at the time of the application deadline for this NOFA. In the case where there is a Multiphase award, a target housing site can still be eligible if it only has the RCC for the first phase. The Office of Recapitalization will offer flexibility with regard to the RAD milestones so that PHAs and their partners may take advantage of the Planning Grants.

10. Resident Involvement. In accordance with section 24(e)(2)(D) of the 1937 Act, applicants must involve affected residents at the beginning and during the planning process for the transformation program, prior to the submission of an application. You are required to involve the affected public and/or assisted housing residents in the planning process and implementation of your Transformation Plan. This involvement must be continuous from the beginning of the planning process through the implementation and management of the grant, if awarded. As of the application deadline date, you must have conducted at least one meeting with residents of the targeted public and/or assisted housing. That **meeting must occur after publication of this NOFA** and cover the planning process anticipated to be funded by a Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant. Please refer to "Participative Planning and Implementation" at the beginning of this NOFA for additional information related to public participation in planning. You must demonstrate compliance with this requirement by using the Resident Involvement Certification form (HUD-53151) and include the form in the attachments section of your application. The certification form must include name of the target public and/or assisted housing site, the date of the resident meeting, and be signed and dated by the Lead Applicant Executive Officer.

D. Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Affecting Eligibility.

1. Compliance with Non-discrimination and Related Requirements.

Unless otherwise specified, these non-discrimination and equal opportunity authorities and other requirements apply to all Program NOFAs. Please read the following requirements carefully as the requirements are different among HUD's programs.

Compliance with Fair Housing and Civil Rights Laws.

Except for federally recognized Indian tribes and their instrumentalities, recipients and their prospective subrecipients must comply with all applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements in 24 CFR 5.105(a), including, but not limited to, the Fair Housing Act; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; Title II and Title III of the ADA of 1990; and Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

Recipients of HUD funds, and their prospective sub-recipients, who are conducting programs or activities in a state or local jurisdiction that has passed a law prohibiting discrimination in housing based upon sexual orientation or gender identity, or a law prohibiting discrimination in housing based on lawful source of income, must comply with the law(s) of the state or locality in which the program activities are conducted.

Federally recognized Indian tribe or Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) applicants must comply with the non-discrimination provisions enumerated in the applicable program regulations. Each Program NOFA will specify the applicable civil rights requirements for Indian tribes or TDHEs when listed as eligible applicants under the Program NOFA.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.

Section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act requires HUD to affirmatively further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act in its housing and urban development programs. HUD requires recipients of funds, including those awarded and announced under HUD's FY 2017 Program NOFAs not specifically exempted, to take meaningful actions that affirmatively further fair housing.

Unless otherwise specified elsewhere in this Program NOFA, an applicant must discuss how it will carry out the proposed activities in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing in compliance with Section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act. If the applicant operates in a jurisdiction with an accepted Assessment of Fair Housing, the proposed activities should be consistent with the AFH's fair housing goals and with fair housing strategies specified in any applicable Consolidated Plan or Public Housing Agency Plan.

Federally recognized Indian tribes are not subject to the requirement to affirmatively further fair housing in their use of certain HUD funds. Other tribal entities may also be exempt. Refer to the Program NOFAs for more information on exemptions. If a tribal entity's use of HUD funds is subject to the Fair Housing Act, then its proposed activities under a particular program NOFA should be consistent with the AFH's fair housing goals and with fair housing strategies specified in any applicable Consolidated Plan.

Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

Executive Order (E.O.) 13166 seeks to improve access to federally assisted programs and activities for individuals who, because of national origin, have LEP. Recipients of HUD funds shall take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities to LEP individuals. As an aid to recipients, HUD published Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients: Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting

Limited English Proficient Persons (LEP Guidance) in the Federal Register on January 22, 2007 (72 FR 2732). LEP guidance and LEP information is available on [HUD's website](#).

Accessible Technology.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 508) requires HUD to ensure, when developing, procuring, maintaining, or using electronic and information technology (EIT), that the EIT allows persons with disabilities to access and use information and data comparably to those without disabilities unless an undue burden would result to the Federal agency. HUD encourages its recipients to adopt the goals and objectives of Section 508 by ensuring comparable access whenever EIT is used. Recipients must also comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and, where applicable, the ADA. These statutes also require effective communication with individuals with disabilities and prohibit EIT-imposed barriers to access information, programs, and activities by persons with disabilities. (See Information on [accessible technology](#).)

2. HUD- or Federal government-wide Requirements.

a. Outstanding Delinquent Federal Debts – It is HUD policy, consistent with the purposes and intent of 31 U.S.C. 3720B and 28 U.S.C. 3201(e), that applicants with outstanding delinquent federal debt will not be eligible to receive an award of funds, unless:

- A negotiated repayment schedule is established and the repayment schedule is not delinquent, or
- Other arrangements satisfactory to HUD are made prior to the award of funds by HUD.

If satisfactory arrangements cannot be completed within 90 days of notification of selection, HUD will not make an award of funds to the applicant, and instead offer the award to the next eligible applicant. HUD may act earlier than the above stated 90 days to ensure, in HUD's determination, that the funds can be obligated in a timely manner. Applicants selected for funding, or awarded funds, must report any changes in status of current agreements covering federal debt. HUD may withhold funding, terminate an award, or seek other remedies from a grantee if a previously agreed-upon payment schedule has not been followed or a new agreement with the federal agency to which the debt is owed has not been signed.

b. Sufficiency of Financial Management System. HUD will not award or disburse funds to applicants that do not have a financial management system that meets Federal standards as described at 2 CFR 200.302. HUD may arrange for a survey of financial management systems for applicants selected for award who have not previously received Federal financial assistance, where HUD Program officials have reason to question whether a financial management system meets Federal standards, or for applicants considered high risk based on past performance or financial management findings.

c. Debarments and/or Suspensions – Under 2 CFR 2424, no award of Federal funds may be made to debarred or suspended applicants, or those proposed to be debarred or suspended from doing business with the Federal government.

d. False Statements – A false statement in an application is grounds for denial or termination of an award and possible punishment, as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

e. Pre-selection Review of Performance. – If your organization has delinquent federal debt or is excluded from doing business with the Federal government, the organization may be ineligible for an award. In addition, before making a Federal award, HUD reviews information available through any OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), and the “Do Not Pay” website. HUD may consider other public sources such as newspapers, Inspector General or Government Accountability Office reports or findings, or other complaints that have been proven to have merit. Applicants may review and comment on any information in FAPIIS through SAM. HUD reserves the right to:

- Deny funding, or with a renewal or continuing award, consider suspension or termination of an award immediately for cause,
- Require the removal of any key individual from association with management or implementation of the award, and
- Make provisions or revisions regarding the method of payment or financial reporting requirements.

f. Mandatory Disclosure Requirement. Recipients or applicants must disclose in writing to the awarding program office at HUD, all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award within ten days after learning of the violation. Recipients that have received a Federal award including the term and condition outlined in Appendix XII to Part 200—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in §200.338 Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment. (See also 2 CFR part 180, 31 U.S.C. 3321, and 41 U.S.C. 2313.)

g. Conducting Business in Accordance with Ethical Standards/Code of Conduct –

Before entering into an agreement with HUD, applicants selected for award must ensure an up-to-date copy of the organization’s code of conduct, dated and signed by the Executive Director, Chair, or equivalent official, of the governing body of the organization has been submitted to HUD.

Codes of conduct must prohibit real and apparent conflicts of interest that may arise among officers, employees, or agents; prohibit the solicitation and acceptance of gifts or gratuities over minimal value by officers, employees, or agents for their personal benefit; and outline administrative and disciplinary actions available to remedy violations of such standards. (See 2 CFR 200.112 and 2 CFR 200.318.)

If the recipient has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, whether non-profit or for-

profit, the recipient must also maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest. “Organizational conflicts of interest” means that because of relationships with a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the recipient is unable, or appears to be unable, to be impartial in administering the award or serving as a pass-through-entity.

h. Conflict of Interest of Consultants or Technical Experts Assisting HUD – Consultants and technical experts who assist HUD in rating and ranking applications for funding under published FY 2017 Program NOFAs are subject to 18 U.S.C. 208, the federal criminal conflict-of-interest statute, and the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch regulation published at 5 CFR part 2635. As a result, consultants and technical experts who have assisted or plan to assist applicants with preparing applications for FY 2017 Program NOFAs may not serve on a selection panel and may not serve as a technical advisor to HUD. Anyone involved in rating and ranking FY 2017 Program NOFA applications, including departmental staff, experts and consultants must avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of such conflicts. These individuals must also disclose to HUD’s Office of General Counsel Ethics Law Division the following information, if applicable:

- How the selection or non-selection of any applicant under a FY 2017 Program NOFA will affect the individual’s financial interests, as provided in 18 U.S.C. 208, or
- How the application process involves a party with whom the individual has a covered relationship under 5 CFR 2635.502

The consultant or technical expert assisting HUD must disclose this information before participating in any matter regarding an FY 2017 program NOFA. Applicants with questions regarding these provisions or concerning a conflict of interest, please call the Office of General Counsel, Ethics Law Division, at (202) 708-3815 (this is not a toll-free number). The phone number above may also be reached by individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities, through the Federal Relay Services service at 1-800-877-8339.

i. . Prohibition Against Lobbying Activities. Applicants are subject to the provisions of Section 319 of Public Law 101-121, 31 U.S.C. 1352, (the Byrd Amendment) and 24 CFR part 87, which prohibit recipients of federal awards from using appropriated funds for lobbying the executive or legislative branches of the Federal government in connection with a specific award. All applicants must submit with their application the signed Certification Regarding Lobbying included in the Application download from Grants.gov. In addition, applicants must disclose, using Standard Form LLL (SF-LLL), “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities,” any funds, other than federally appropriated funds, that will be or have been used to influence federal employees, members of Congress, or congressional staff regarding specific grants or contracts. Federally-recognized Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) established by federally-recognized Indian tribes as a result of the exercise of the tribe’s sovereign power are excluded from coverage of the Byrd Amendment, but state-recognized Indian tribes and TDHEs established only under state law shall comply with this requirement. Applicants must submit the SF-LLL if they have used or intend to use non-federal funds for lobbying activities.

k. Consistency with the Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments (AI)/Assessment of Fair Housing – Certain competitive Programs require applications to contain a certification of

consistency with a HUD-approved Consolidated Plan. This certification means that the proposed activities are consistent with the jurisdiction's strategic plan, and the location of the proposed activities is consistent with the geographic areas specified in the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan also includes the jurisdiction's certification to affirmatively further fair housing which means, among other requirements, that the jurisdiction has conducted an AI/Assessment of Fair Housing. If a program NOFA requires a certification of consistency with the Consolidated Plan and you fail to provide the certification, and you do not cure the omission as a curable deficiency, HUD will not fund the application.

Under HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 91.2(d), an applicant's PHA Plan must include a certification by the appropriate state or local official that the PHA Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction in which the PHA is located and must describe the manner in which the applicable contents of the PHA Plan are consistent with the Consolidated Plan.

E. Program Specific Requirements.

1. Choice Neighborhoods Program Activities. Program activities are the required and eligible activities necessary to develop a Transformation Plan for the target neighborhood, which should include strategies to achieve the objectives identified in the NOFA, align investments with this plan, and develop the relevant planning and evaluation capacity of the applicant and its partners.

a. Required Activities.

(1) Conduct a household-level needs assessment of the public and/or assisted housing residents in the target development(s) to better design solutions for the children and families of HUD housing within the first 12 months of the Planning Grant/Planning and Action Grant. In addition, grantees must evaluate existing administrative data (such as the census [including the American Community Survey (ACS)], police reports, healthcare agencies/providers, school reports, research surveys, etc.) to determine whether more comprehensive needs assessments are required at the neighborhood level.

(2) Devise a relocation strategy for residents that need to be relocated during the rehabilitation or reconstruction of the public and/or assisted housing.

(3) If not already completed, you must have a market assessment conducted of your neighborhood by an independent, third party professional of the target neighborhood during the grant period. The conclusions drawn from this study must inform the development of the Transformation Plan.

(4) If not already identified, you must select the master developer/housing developer that will implement the housing component of the Transformation Plan before the end of the grant term.

(5) Complete a Phase I environmental assessment at the redevelopment site to determine the potential and extent of any needed environmental remediation, in order for a grantee to determine a feasible timeline and budget for the realization of redevelopment efforts.

(6) If the redevelopment plan includes the rehabilitation or demolition of any buildings 45 years of age or older, the grantee must contact the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to

determine the potential for negative effects of demolition on historic properties.

(7) If awarded more than \$350,000, the grantee must identify and propose Action Activities, as defined in I.A.3.b, within 24 months of the grant award date and implement approved Action Activities before the end of the grant term. See section IV.F.2 for more details.

b. Eligible Activities. Funding under this NOFA may be used for the following activities, which should be included as appropriate to the local context and based on the current status of the local planning process.

(1) Conduct comprehensive needs assessments to inform the development of the Transformation Plan. The needs assessments should include:

(a) Current patterns of disinvestment within the neighborhood, including vacant/abandoned homes and businesses, the quality of the existing housing stock, foreclosures, and current home values and rents. Discuss other subsidized housing (for example, Housing Choice Vouchers, LIHTC units, PBRA, local affordable units) in the neighborhood that are not part of the target public and/or assisted housing project(s), the current mix of incomes, and any long-term economic drivers for continued disinvestment that may be expected to continue, absent a publicly funded intervention;

(b) The neighborhood's access to key assets, such as quality grocery stores, banks, health clinics and doctors' offices, local schools, child care facilities, parks and recreational facilities, and public transit. Identify key neighborhood anchor institutions, such as major employers, universities, or hospitals that can reliably be expected to continue to provide significant economic activity;

(c) Relevant developmental and social assets in the target neighborhood as these assets relate to opportunities for resident education, employment, health, mobility and safety; and

(d) Challenges and gaps in neighborhood services and assets.

(2) Undertake a comprehensive and integrated planning process that addresses the challenges and gaps in services and assets identified through the needs assessments and leads to a plan for implementation that has broad community support, in the areas of:

(a) Housing. Adopt effective strategies to achieve the Housing goal. Such activities include but are not limited to: studies of the different options for revitalization, including the feasibility, costs and neighborhood impact of such options; assessment of the need for affordable housing; site planning and conceptual architectural design work that includes accessible design in accordance with applicable accessibility requirements, including but not limited to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (24 CFR Part 8), the Fair Housing Act (24 CFR Part 100) and the Americans with Disabilities Act; designing a suitable replacement housing plan, in situations where partial or total demolition is considered; designing a suitable mobility strategy and relocation assistance; conducting environmental or geotechnical studies to assess the suitability of a site for developmental activities; and developing a viable financing plan to implement the Housing component of the plan. The plan should consider a range of viable financing plans which is not dependent on a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant in particular.

(b) People. Adopt effective strategies to achieve the People goal. Such activities include but are not limited to:

i. Planning for supportive services, particularly education, economic development, job

training, self-sufficiency, fair housing counseling and asset building activities for neighborhood and target housing families that help increase intergenerational mobility and improve employment, health, and education outcomes;

ii. Planning for improving access to high quality education programs and improved academic and developmental outcomes for children living in the target housing and in the neighborhood along the continuum of cradle-through-college-to-career solutions, including:

(a) High quality early learning programs and services that are comprehensive, inclusive, evidence-based and that result in significantly improved outcomes in physical well-being and motor development, social-emotional development, language and literacy development, and cognition and general knowledge, including early numeracy for children.

(b) High quality education programs, which may include: (A) evidence-based programs that increase learning time which may include high quality after-school, summer school, and other expanded learning-time programs designed to improve student outcomes and (B) evidence-based programs that prepare students for college and career success.

(c) Ensuring access to existing high-quality schools or undertaking school improvements, which may include (A) significant improvements to the programs, policies and personnel of an elementary, middle/junior high and/or high school that are linked to improved academic outcomes or (B) establishing a new high-quality school.

iii. Partnering with the necessary agencies and organizations and developing a viable financing plan to implement the People component of the plan.

(c) Neighborhood. Adopt effective strategies to achieve the Neighborhood goal. Such activities include but are not limited to: planning for neighborhood-level improvements across the range of Neighborhood Assets; aligning with existing planning processes and activities in the local jurisdiction and/or metropolitan area or county/parish; planning for neighborhood economic development activities; and partnering with the necessary agencies and organizations and developing a viable financing plan to implement the Neighborhood component of the plan.

(3) Conduct technical planning studies concerning local development issues, priorities, or suggested appropriate approaches in the context of the local housing market relative to other alternatives. This could include new approaches to housing, economic development, capital improvement programming or community relations. However, any such studies should directly further the integration of strategies to develop a comprehensive neighborhood-level Transformation Plan.

(4) Work with public and private agencies, organizations (including philanthropic organizations) and individuals to: develop the Transformation Plan which includes a governance strategy that will provide long-term accountability and secure commitments to collaborate long-term to ensure it will be implemented successfully; gather and leverage resources needed to support the financial sustainability of the Transformation Plan; identify strategies for building upon and leveraging existing neighborhood efforts and anticipated Federal, state, regional and local investments; and strengthen management and decision-making capacities of participating organizations.

(5) Ensure meaningful resident, community, and stakeholder participation throughout the development of the Transformation Plan, including but not limited to public hearings, meetings, websites, forums, charrettes, and other communication that will provide all aspects of the policy

and development plans and alternative options to neighborhood residents, local business owners and employees, and civic and community organization representatives in sufficient time for them to review, react, and make informed decisions on how proposed plans and policies will impact their daily lives. Activities should prioritize ways to engage communities traditionally marginalized from planning processes, such as low-income individuals and families, limited English speakers, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. For assistance in ensuring meaningful access for persons with limited English proficiency, grantees should consult HUD's Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons (HUD's LEP Guidance) published in the Federal Register on January 22, 2007 (72 Fed. Reg. 2732). Additional information is also available at www.hud.gov/fheo/promotingfh/lep.cfm. Pursuant to section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, recipients must employ accessible means of technology to ensure that persons with disabilities can access information on the planning process, plans, and other information.

(6) Plan for the collection and strategic use of relevant data to track future community impacts once the Transformation Plan is implemented by employing statistical and qualitative analysis of specific metrics developed in partnership with the appropriate local, state, regional, and federal agencies/organizations. Such planning should focus on integrating data systems across agencies and/or negotiating data sharing agreements so that these data can be used for intervention targeting and improvement.

(7) Identify and secure the involvement of effective practices and actors based on the best available evidence. Such activities may include conducting site visits, research, or participating in a community of practice, which is a group of grantees that agrees to interact regularly to solve a persistent problem or improve practice in an area that is important to them and the success of their project, enabling grantees to meet, discuss and collaborate with each other regarding grantee projects.

(8) Early Action Activities, as defined in section I.A.3.b of this NOFA. Up to \$50,000 of grant funds may be used for Early Action Activities. Specific Early Action Activities may be proposed in the application, as part of the submitted budget, or during the grant period, as a budget revision. These funds should be used for innovative solutions to neighborhood challenges and must be used for projects that can be completed within the first two years.

c. Ineligible Activities. Ineligible activities for all grantees include:

- (1) Supportive services;
- (2) Incentives for recruitment into, participation in, or completion of any planning activities (e.g. gift cards provided to residents that complete a survey or needs assessment and meals provided at planning meetings); and
- (3) Redevelopment of the public or HUD-assisted housing targeted in this application, including acquisition, relocation, demolition and remediation, rehabilitation, or construction.

2. Choice Neighborhoods Program Requirements. For all successful applicants this section contains Choice Neighborhoods program requirements, administrative and national policy requirements, and other program priorities that Planning Grantees and Planning and Action

Grantees must consider as they develop their Transformation Plans. Successful applicants MUST review this section and ensure they comply with the requirements, as relevant.

a. Housing Choice Opportunities for Returning Tenants. An approved Transformation Plan shall demonstrate that each tenant who wishes to return to the on-site or off-site replacement housing may return if the tenant was lease-compliant at the time of relocation and continued to remain lease-compliant during the relocation period. A returning tenant shall be provided a preference for occupancy of on-site or off-site replacement units before such units are made available to any other eligible households, or the tenant may choose to retain tenant-based voucher assistance provided under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 for relocation from the properties revitalized under this NOFA. This preference remains available until the initial lease-up of the new units.

b. One-for-One Replacement of Public and/or Assisted Housing Units. The Transformation Plan created through a Planning Grant or Planning and Action Grant should provide for the one-for-one replacement of all public and/or assisted dwelling units as described below:

(1) Public Housing Replacement Housing. For all public housing dwelling units still physically standing as of the application due date which will be demolished or disposed, the Transformation Plan must provide at least for replacement of the same number of bedrooms. The number of dwelling units replaced may be greater or fewer than those still physically standing, so the overall unit mix meets the needs of the existing residents, takes into account needs of the residents on the waiting list, and is aligned with the results of a recent housing market study. For example, if the development has experienced high vacancy rates for efficiency and one-bedroom units and the PHA waiting list and market study indicate there is no expectation of demand in the future, but there is a need for three-bedroom units, three one-bedroom and/or efficiency units may be combined to create a three-bedroom unit. Larger bedroom units (i.e. four or more bedrooms) may only be converted to create additional smaller-bedroom units if 1) the PHA is currently under its Faircloth limit (i.e. Section 9(g)(3) of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended) and 2) there are no existing households or waiting-list households requiring larger-bedroom units, and the market study indicates there will not be future demand.

(2) Assisted Housing Replacement Housing. For all Assisted Housing units still physically standing as of the application due date which are to be demolished or disposed, the Transformation Plan must provide for one-for-one replacement in accordance with all HUD policies, procedures and requirements for project-based section 8 Housing Assistance Payments (“HAP”) contract.

(3) Location.

(a) Replacement housing units shall be developed:

i. On-site (i.e., on the target housing site and/or in the target neighborhood being revitalized); and/or

ii. Off-site (i.e., outside of the target neighborhood but within the metropolitan area up to 25 miles from the target project site) as necessary to:

a. overcome the effects of impediments to fair housing choice consistent with actions identified in an applicable Analysis of Impediments to fair housing choice (AI) (24 CFR 91.225

or 91.325); address other affirmatively furthering fair housing objectives as described in the grant application; or comply with a voluntary agreement, settlement, or order to resolve a finding or charge of violating a nondiscrimination or equal opportunity requirement;

b. deconcentrate poverty; or

c. redevelop onsite with appropriate densities.

(b) Replacement housing outside the target neighborhood (i.e., off-site) must:

i. offer access to economic opportunities and public transportation and be accessible to social, recreational, educational, commercial, health facilities and services, and other municipal services and facilities that are comparable to those that will be provided in the target neighborhood; and

ii. be located neither in areas of minority concentration nor in areas with a poverty rate above 40 percent. A neighborhood of minority concentration is a Census tract or other defined geographic area in which the percentage of residents who are racial or ethnic minorities is at least 20 percentage points higher than the percentage of minority residents in the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (or jurisdiction not in a MSA) as a whole. In MSAs (or jurisdictions not in MSAs) in which the majority of residents are racial or ethnic minorities, HUD will consider and rely on all relevant information to determine whether the neighborhood proposed for replacement housing will lead to the creation of more inclusive and integrated housing in opportunity-rich neighborhoods.

(4) Types of Units. Please refer to the definition of Replacement Housing in section I.A.3.f of this NOFA. Planning Grantees/Planning and Action Grantees targeting public housing projects are encouraged to plan to utilize Section 8 project-based rental assistance or Section 8 project-based vouchers, such as through a RAD conversion, in order to meet the one-for-one replacement requirement.

(5) Tenant-based Vouchers as Replacement Housing. Up to half of the public housing and/or assisted housing dwelling units that are demolished or disposed of under the Transformation Plan may be replaced with tenant-based vouchers in housing markets where there is an adequate supply of affordable rental housing in areas of low poverty. Please note this exception does not supersede an entity's obligation to comply with other one-for-one replacement requirements associated with other funding sources (e.g., section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act).

(a) To be eligible for this exception to the hard-unit one-for-one replacement criteria, the area of the Choice Neighborhoods development must meet both of the following criteria:

i. Be located in a county/parish with a currently and historically soft rental housing market for low-income renters.

ii. Be located in a Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) or non-CBSA County/Parish where vouchers currently in use are primarily in lower poverty neighborhoods.

(b) Planning Grantees that would qualify for this exception may devise a Transformation Plan under this grant in accordance with the exception.

c. Sustainable Development. You must incorporate sustainable development practices in your Transformation Plan. Your Plan must address key Livability Principles adopted

by HUD and its federal partners, including but not limited to supporting compact development and proximity to and increased availability of transportation choices, amenities, services and employment opportunities. You must include key stakeholders, agencies and experts in addressing these principles during your planning process, and identify how you plan to apply the Livability Principles to your project, and how you will measure their outcomes. Your plan should also maximize energy efficiency and water saving techniques and practices and improve the health of residents by adopting green building practices or standards to the extent feasible and affordable, including but not limited to incorporating renewable energy systems. These energy efficiency and water saving techniques and practices should include planning for proper ventilation, as indoor air quality and/or moisture build up can be impacted with the reduction of indoor/outdoor air exchange.

d. Energy Efficiency and Green Building Standards. As indicated in HUD's FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan and the General Section, one of HUD's strategic goals is to increase the health and safety of homes and embed comprehensive energy efficiency and healthy housing criteria across HUD programs. Recognizing the fundamental role that HUD's investments play in defining the physical form of communities and quality of life for residents, Planning Grant and Planning and Action Grant recipients must become eligible to secure Stage 1 Conditional Approval of all or a portion of the neighborhood targeted in their Transformation Plan for LEED for Neighborhood Development from the United States Green Building Council.

e. Non-Fungibility for Moving To Work (MTW) PHAs. Funds awarded under this NOFA are not fungible under MTW agreements and must be accounted for separately, in accordance with the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant Agreement and Planning and Action Grant Agreement, OMB Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles set forth in 2 CFR 200, and generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

f. Design. HUD is seeking excellence in design. You must carefully select your architects and planners, and enlist local affiliates of national architectural and planning organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Planning Association, the Congress for the New Urbanism, and the department of architecture at a local college or university to assist you in assessing qualifications of design professionals or in participating on a selection panel resulting in the procurement of excellent design services. You should select a design team committed to a process in which all residents, including young people and seniors, the broader community, and other stakeholders participate in designing the new community. Your proposed site plan, new units, and other buildings must be designed to be compatible with and enrich the surrounding neighborhood. Local architecture and design elements and amenities should be incorporated into the new or rehabilitated homes so that the revitalized sites and structures will blend into the broader community and appeal to the market segments for which they are intended. Housing, community facilities, and economic development space must be well integrated. You must select members of your team who have the ability to meet these requirements.

g. Environmental Requirements. Successful applicants MUST review this section and ensure they comply with all environmental requirements, as relevant.

(1) Applicable Environmental Requirements. All Choice Neighborhoods grantees must comply with applicable environmental requirements. In accordance with the FY2017 Appropriations Act provision, environmental reviews must be performed by the State or unit of

general local government (Responsible Entity) under 24 CFR part 58, regardless of whether the grantee is a PHA. These regulations implement the policies of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental requirements. The Responsible Entity must make a determination whether each activity assisted under this NOFA is exempt or categorically excluded from NEPA and other environmental review requirements or requires further environmental review. While many planning activities assisted under the NOFA are exempt or categorically excluded from NEPA and other environmental review requirements, other activities, including many Action Activities, will require environmental review prior to implementation. When such an activity is proposed, no Choice Neighborhoods grant funds for that activity will be released until the environmental review is complete and the Responsible Entity has submitted a Request for Release of Funds to HUD. Note the environmental review process also includes other Federal laws and authorities, such as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which also apply to Choice Neighborhoods activities, even those categorically excluded from NEPA review.

(2) Responsibility. If the grantee objects to the responsible entity conducting the environmental review, on the basis of performance, timing, or compatibility of objectives, HUD will review the facts and determine who will perform the environmental review. At any time, HUD may reject the use of a responsible entity to conduct the environmental review in a particular case on the basis of performance, timing, or compatibility of objectives, or in accordance with 24 CFR 58.77(d)(1). If a responsible entity objects to performing an environmental review, or if HUD determines that the responsible entity should not perform the environmental review, HUD may designate another responsible entity to conduct the review or may itself conduct the environmental review in accordance with the provisions of 24 CFR part 50.

(3) Limitations on activities pending clearance. Unless an action is exempt or is categorically excluded and is not subject to other applicable environmental requirements, you, and any participant in the development process, may not undertake any actions with respect to the project that are choice-limiting or could have environmentally adverse effects, including demolishing, acquiring, rehabilitating, converting, leasing, repairing, or constructing property (i.e. “physical activities”) proposed to be assisted under this NOFA, and you, and any participant in the development process, may not commit or expend HUD or local funds for these activities, until (i) HUD has approved a Request for Release of Funds following a responsible entity’s environmental review under 24 CFR part 58, or (ii) HUD has completed an environmental review and given approval for the action under 24 CFR part 50. In addition, you must carry out any mitigating/remedial measures required by the responsible entity (or HUD), or select an alternate eligible property or site, if permitted by HUD.

(4) Supporting Documentation. You must provide any reports and documentation needed to perform the environmental review to the responsible entity (or HUD, where applicable). Where HUD is conducting the environmental review, applicants should follow the documentation guidance as discussed in Chapter 9 of the MAP Guide. Guidance on environmental review is available on HUD’s environmental website:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/>.

F. Criteria for Beneficiaries.

IV. Application and Submission Information.

A. Obtaining an Application Package.

Instructions for Applicants

You must download both the Application Instruction and the Application Package from [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). To ensure you are using the correct Application Package and Application Instructions, you must verify that the CFDA Number and CFDA Description on the first page of the Application Package, and the Opportunity Title and the Funding Opportunity Number match the Program and NOFA to which you are applying.

The Application Package contains the Adobe forms created by Grants.gov. The Instruction download contains official copies of the General Section and Program NOFA, and forms necessary for a complete application. The Instruction download may include Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and additional Adobe Portable Document Format documents.

An applicant demonstrating good cause may request a waiver from the requirement for electronic submission. For example, a lack of available Internet access in the geographic area in which your business offices are located. Lack of SAM registration or valid DUNS is not deemed good cause. If you cannot submit your application electronically, you must ask in writing for a waiver of the electronic grant submission requirements. HUD will not grant a waiver if HUD does not receive your written request at least 15 days before the application deadline or if you do not demonstrate good cause. If HUD waives the requirement, HUD must receive your paper application before the deadline of this NOFA. To request a waiver and receive a paper copy of the application materials, you should contact:

Email: ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov

B. Content and Form of Application Submission.

To ensure that the correct Application Package and Application Instructions are used, applicants must verify that the CFDA Number and CFDA Description on the first page of the Application Package downloaded from Grants.gov, as well as the Funding Opportunity Title, and the Funding Opportunity Number match the Program and NOFA to which they are applying. You must verify that boxes 11, 12, and 13 on the SF-424 match the NOFA for which you are applying. If they do not match, you have downloaded the wrong Application Instruction and Application Package.

Submission of an application under the wrong CFDA and Funding Opportunity Number is not a

curable deficiency and will result in your application being declared ineligible for funding.

1. Content.

Forms for your package include the forms outlined below:

Additionally, your complete application must include the following narratives and non-form attachments.

Instructions on Application Organization and Content. The following provides instructions on the organization and content of your application. It lists the narrative exhibits and attachments, and instructions for each, that are required as part of the application. All narrative exhibits, attachments, and forms are required to be submitted in your application unless otherwise indicated. Non-submission of any of the items below may lower your rating score or make you ineligible for award under this NOFA. Review the threshold requirements in III.C and the Review Criteria of V.A for the criteria and to ascertain the effects of non-submission. **Please be advised that not providing information clearly and consistently, and/or not providing exhibits and attachments in accordance with the instructions and documentation requirements in this NOFA, may negatively impact HUD's ability to determine if your application meets threshold requirements or to score your application. This could result in your application not being able to be scored and ranked (see section V.B) or a lower score. Please also only submit documents that are required to respond to a threshold requirement and/or rating factor.** HUD forms required by this NOFA will be made available at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp. The list of narrative exhibits and attachments, and instructions for each, are as follows:

(1) **Table of Contents.** Use form provided (form HUD-53150).

(2) **Narrative Exhibits.** The narrative exhibits required in your applications are as follows:

Exhibit A – Executive Summary. There are often many communities in a metro or non-metro area that meet the Choice Neighborhoods criteria for housing need, poverty and crime. Please describe why this neighborhood was selected and what defining neighborhood characteristics (both needs and assets) led to its selection. In your response, please describe the target neighborhood's and target housing's challenges, the current image of the neighborhood (including positive and negative aspects), the Neighborhood Assets (as defined in this NOFA) on which your planning approach will build, and what you plan to use this grant to achieve. Include a profile of the neighborhood demographics in comparison to the city (or county/parish for applications from non-metropolitan areas). Provide a brief overview of the neighborhood planning process and identify key partner organizations with which you will be working. Include preliminary observations on the neighborhood's market potential. Describe the basis of how the neighborhood boundaries were established. (Note: HUD reserves the right to ask applicants to provide evidence during the review process that the target neighborhood boundary is generally accepted.) (suggested 3 pages maximum)

Exhibit B – Requirements. Review and provide a narrative response to the Threshold Requirements in Section III.C. Please also use this space to indicate: (1) if you are only requesting funds for the planning process (up to \$350,000) vs. a Planning and Action Grant (up to \$1.3 million) and (2) if you would accept a 'Planning only' grant (up to \$350,000) if you are not among the highest scoring applications that have requested funding for Action Activities.

(suggested 1 page maximum)

Exhibit C – Capacity. Review and provide a narrative response to V.A.1.A (suggested 6 pages maximum)

Exhibit D – Need - Design Deficiencies. Review and provide a narrative response to V.A.1.B.1.c (suggested 2 pages maximum)

Exhibit E – Soundness of Approach. Review and provide a narrative response to V.A.1.C (suggested 15 pages maximum)

(3) **Attachments.** The attachments required in your applications, unless otherwise noted, are listed below. For forms noted below, applicants will continue to use the Planning Grant forms posted on grants.gov; any reference to “Planning Grant” on these forms should be considered to mean “Planning and Action Grant.”

Attachment 1. Key Eligibility Data Form. Complete the form provided (form HUD-53152). Provide backup documentation, as applicable, in the appropriate attachment identified below.

Attachment 2. Eligible Applicants Documentation

i. MOU or Letter of Agreement for Co-Applicants, if applicable. Review and respond to the requirement in III.A.1 by providing the MOU or Letter of Agreement required by that section.

ii. Nonprofits, if applicable. Review and respond to the requirement in III.A.1.c by providing the documentation required by that section.

iii. Certification for Multifamily Assisted Property Owners, if applicable. If the Lead Applicant is the owner of the assisted property that is the subject of the Choice Neighborhoods activity grant, the applicant is required to submit the Previous Participation Certification (form HUD-2530).

iv. Letter from housing project owner, if applicable. Review and respond to the requirement in III.A.1 by providing the MOU and/or letter required by that section.

Attachment 3. Documentation for Planning Coordinator (if applicable). Review and respond to the rating factors in V.A.1.A.3 by providing the documentation required.

Attachment 4. Eligible Target Housing Documentation – Severe Distress of Targeted Project Certification. Review and respond to the requirement in III.A.2 by completing the form provided (form HUD-53232).

Attachment 5. Eligible Neighborhoods Documentation – Eligible Neighborhoods Data. Review and respond to the requirement in III.A.3 by providing the pdf received via email that contains data generated from the mapping tool provided on www.hud.gov/cn.

Attachment 6. Resident Involvement Certification. Review and respond to the requirement in III.C.10 by providing the certification form provided (form HUD-53151).

Attachment 7. Need- Rehabilitation Cost Estimate from Physical Needs Assessment (PNA). Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.B.1.a by providing the documentation identified in that section.

Attachment 8. Need- Structural Deficiencies Documentation. Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.B.1.b by providing the documentation identified in that section, as

relevant. Include photographs as part of the documentation.

Attachment 9. **Need- Design Deficiencies Documentation.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.B.1.c by providing the documentation identified in that section, as relevant. Include photographs as part of the documentation.

Attachment 10. **Need – Substandard Housing Documentation.** If applicable, review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.B.2.b by providing the documentation identified in that section. This documentation may also be used by HUD in order to assess compliance with the Eligible Neighborhood requirement in section III.A.3.

Attachment 11. **Need - Part I Violent Crimes Documentation.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.B.2.c by providing the documentation identified in that section. This documentation may also be used by HUD in order to assess compliance with the Eligible Neighborhood requirement in section III.A.3.b. Tribal entities can choose to mark this section as “N/A” for Not Applicable.

Attachment 12. **Evidence of Partnerships.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.C.5 by providing the documentation required under that section. Applicants may also include partner letters responding to V.A.1.c in this attachment, if applicable, by providing the documentation required under that section.

Attachment 13. **Staffing Plan.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.C.8.

Attachment 14. **Planning Schedule.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.C.9.

Attachment 15. **Budget.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.C.10.

Attachment 16. **Documentation to Support Consistency with Consolidated Plan and PHA/MTW Plan.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.C.11 by providing the documentation required under that section.

Attachment 17. **Alignment with Existing Efforts.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.D.1 by providing the documentation required under that section.

Attachment 18. **Evidence of Local Government Support and School District Support.** Review and respond to the rating factors in V.A.1.D.2 and V.A.1.D.3 by providing the documentation required under those sections.

Attachment 19. **Cash Leverage documentation.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.E.2.a. Include the cover sheet provided (form HUD-53154).

Attachment 20. **Action Activities Leverage documentation.** Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.1.E.2.b. Include the cover sheet provided (form HUD-53154).

Attachment 21. **Preference Points,** if applicable. Review and respond to the rating factor in V.A.2 by providing a completed form HUD-2995 and/or HUD-50153.

Attachment 22. **City and Neighborhood Maps.** Provide city and neighborhood maps to-scale clearly identifying and label the items below in the context of existing city streets, the central business district, other key city and neighborhood sites, and census tracts. The City and Neighborhood Maps provide essential context for HUD reviewers, so it is essential that applicants provide a map that is readable, at a reasonable scale, and clearly labels the target public and/or HUD-assisted housing project(s) and eligible neighborhood and other useful

information to place the project in the context of the city, county/parish, or municipality, neighborhood assets, and other revitalization activity underway or planned. The neighborhood map must show the same boundaries used to draw the neighborhood through the mapping tool that generated the eligible neighborhoods data required in Attachment 5.

Attachment 23. **Current Site Plan.** Provide a Current Site Plan that shows and clearly labels the target housing site's various buildings. Demolished buildings should be shown and labeled as such. Label all uses and buildings adjoining the existing development.

Attachment 24. **Photographs of the Target Housing and Neighborhood.** Submit photographs of the targeted severely distressed housing and neighborhood that illustrate the extent of distress as well as reflect the existing assets.

Attachment 25. **Choice Neighborhoods Application Certifications.** Review and respond to the requirement in III.C.4 by completing the form provided (form HUD 53156).

Attachment 26. **Standard Forms.** These forms are incorporated into the grants.gov system and thus do not need to be uploaded separately. The Lead Applicant must be the signatory for these forms.

i. **Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424).** Applicants must include the nine digit zip code (zip code plus four digits) associated with the applicant address in box 8d of the SF-424. The DUNS number used must have an active registration in SAM.

ii. **Certification Regarding Lobbying.** All applicants except Federally recognized Indian tribes must submit this certification with their application.

iii. **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL).** If this form does not apply, indicate (e.g., writing "N/A") on the form and submit it with your application.

iv. **Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report (form HUD-2880)** ("HUD Applicant Recipient Disclosure Report");

2. Format and Form.

Narratives and other attachments to your application must follow the following format guidelines.

Program-Specific Format Requirements

a. Application Layout.

(1) The first part of your application will be comprised of narrative exhibits. Your narratives will respond to requirements, rating factors, and other criteria in the NOFA, as indicated below.

(2) The second part of your application will be comprised of attachments. These documents will also respond to the rating factors in the NOFA, as well as threshold and mandatory documentation requirements. They will include documents such as maps, photographs, application data forms, and various certifications.

(3) Double-space your narrative exhibit pages. Single-spaced pages will be counted as two

pages;

(4) Use 8½ x 11-inch paper.

(5) All margins should be one inch. If any margin is smaller than ½ inch, the page will be counted as two pages;

(6) Use 12-point, Times New Roman font;

(7) Any pages marked as sub-pages (e.g., with numbers and letters such as 25A, 25B, 25C), will be treated as separate pages;

(8) If a section is not applicable, indicate “N/A” as a clear indication to HUD (do not just leave the section blank);

(9) Mark each Exhibit and Attachment with the appropriate tab/title page, as listed below. No material on the tab/title page will be considered for review purposes;

(10) No more than one page of text may be placed on one sheet of paper; i.e., you may not shrink pages to get two or more on a page. Shrunken pages, or pages where a minimized/reduced font are used, will be counted as multiple pages;

(11) Do not format your narrative exhibits in columns. Pages with text in columns will be counted as two pages;

(12) Any tables included in the narrative exhibits of the application must also be double spaced or they will be counted twice.

(13) All pages should be numbered. HUD recommends applicants consecutively number the pages of the Attachments section to ensure proper assembly of their application if printed.

b. Application Page Count. These criteria apply to all applicants.

(1) Each Choice Neighborhoods application must contain no more than 75 pages. Any pages beyond this limit will not be reviewed. HUD will not consider the information on any excess pages, which may result in a lower score or failure of a threshold.

(2) Exceptions to page limits. The documents listed below constitute the only exceptions and are not counted in the page limit listed above. Extraneous information not related to the content of these attachments will be counted toward the page limit.

- Additional pages submitted at the request of HUD in response to a technical deficiency
- Table of Contents
- Eligible Applicants documentation (Attachment 2)
- Planning Coordinator documentation (Attachment 3)
- The report generated from the mapping tool that you received via email (Attachment 5)
- Resident Involvement Certification (Attachment 6)
- Evidence of Partnership letters (Attachment 12)
- Documentation to support consistency with other planning documents (Attachment 16)
- Leverage documentation (Attachments 19-20)
- Application Certifications and Standard forms (Attachments 25-26)
- Tabs/title pages that are blank or display a title/header/ “n/a” indication

c. Choice Neighborhoods-Specific Electronic Submission Requirements: Format and Title Instructions in Addition to Those in the FY2015 General Section.

(1) Exhibits and Exhibit Title Pages. Exhibits are as listed in IV.B.2.e of this NOFA. Each Exhibit should be contained in its own separate file in the application. Each file should contain one title page. Do NOT create title pages separately from the document it goes with. HUD will use title pages as tabs when it downloads and prints the application. Provided the information on the title page is limited to the list in this section, the title pages will not be counted. Each title page should only contain, in the following order:

(a) The name of the Exhibit, as described below in IV.B.2.e of this NOFA, e.g., “ExhibitAExecSummary” **WARNING:** Applications containing file names longer than 50 characters (HUD recommends using file names with 32 characters or less), or contain spaces or special characters, will result in the file being detected as a virus by the Grants.gov system and the application will be rejected with a “VirusDetect” message.

(b) The name of the applicant; and

(c) The name of the file that contains the Exhibit.

(2) Attachments and Attachment Title Pages. Attachments are listed below in IV.B.2.e of this NOFA. Each Attachment should be contained in its own separate file in the application. Each Attachment not a HUD form should contain one title page. HUD will use title pages as tabs if it downloads and prints the application. Provided the information on the title page is limited to the list in this section, the title pages will not be counted. HUD forms do not require title pages. Each title page should only contain:

(a) The name of the Attachment, as described in IV.B.2.e of this NOFA, e.g., “Att4SevereDistressCert.” **WARNING:** Applications containing file names longer than 50 characters (HUD recommends using file names with 32 characters or less), or contain spaces or special characters, will result in the file being detected as a virus by the Grants.gov system and the application will be rejected with a “VirusDetect” message.

(b) The name of the applicant; and

(c) The name of the file that contains the Attachment.

d. Documentation Requirements. Documentation requirements are provided throughout the “Threshold Requirements” section (III.C.2), the “Statutory and Regulatory Requirements” section (III.C.1), the “Additional Requirements to be Rated” section (III.C.4), the “Rating Factors” section (V.A.1), and the Bonus Points section (V.A.2) of this NOFA, as relevant. Applicants must carefully review and follow documentation requirements.

C. System for Award Management (SAM) and Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number.

1. SAM Registration Requirement

Applicants must be registered with SAM before submitting their application. In addition, applicants must maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times when

they have an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by HUD.

2. DUNS Number Requirement.

Applicants must provide a valid DUNS number, registered and active at SAM, in the application. DUNS numbers may be obtained for free from [Dun and Bradstreet](#).

3. Requirement to Register with Grants.gov.

Anyone planning to submit grant applications on behalf of an organization must register at Grants.gov and be approved by the EBiz Point of Contact in SAM to submit applications for the organization.

Registration for SAM and Grants.gov is a multi-step process and can take four (4) weeks or longer to complete if data issues arise. Applicants without a valid registration cannot submit an application through Grants.gov. Complete registration instructions and guidance are provided at [Grants.gov](#). See also Section IV.B for necessary form and content information.

D. Application Submission Dates and Times.

The application deadline is 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern time on **08/28/2017**. Applications must be received no later than the deadline.

Submit your application to [Grants.gov](#) unless a waiver has been issued allowing you to submit your application in paper form. Instructions for submitting your application to [Grants.gov](#) are contained in the Application Package you downloaded from [Grants.gov](#). Instructions for submitting your paper application will be contained in the waiver of electronic submission.

Applications under HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) grant program are an exception to the submission requirements detailed in the previous paragraph. Applications for that grant program are submitted through HUD's e-snaps system.

“Received by [Grants.gov](#)” means the applicant received a confirmation of receipt and an application tracking number from [Grants.gov](#). [Grants.gov](#) assigns an application tracking number and date- and time-stamps each application upon successful receipt by the [Grants.gov](#) system. A submission attempt that does not result in confirmation of receipt and an application tracking number is not considered received by [Grants.gov](#).

Applications received by Grants.gov must be validated by [Grants.gov](#) in order to be received by HUD. “Validated by Grants.gov” means the application has been accepted and was not rejected with errors. You can track the status of your application by logging into Grants.gov, selecting “Applicants” from the top navigation, and selecting “Track my application” from the dropdown list. If the application status is “rejected with errors,” you must correct the error(s) and resubmit the application before the 24-hour grace period ends. Applications in “rejected with errors” status after the 24-hour grace period expires will not be received by HUD. Visit Grants.gov for a complete description of processing steps after submitting an application. To quickly check the

status of your application:

- Go to www.grants.gov.
- Under the APPLICANTS tab on the Home page header, select [Track My Application](#).
- In the text box provided, enter your Grants.gov application tracking number and click on the red Submit Application Tracking Numbers button. If the status is rejected with errors, you can get more information by logging in to Grants.gov with the username and password for the AOR account used to submit the application.

HUD strongly recommends Applications be submitted at least 48 hours before the deadline and during regular business hours to allow enough time to correct errors or overcome other problems.

Note: Now you can verify the contents of your submitted application to confirm Grants.gov received everything you intended to submit. To verify the contents of your submitted application:

- Go to www.grants.gov.
- On the top, right corner, click on the LOGIN link.
- Under the APPLICANT tab, enter the username and password for the AOR account used to submit the application and click on the LOGIN button.
- If your organization has Standard AOR Access Level, please click on the CHECK MY APPLICATION STATUS link on the left. If your organization has Expanded AOR Access Level, please click on the CHECK APPLICATION STATUS FOR ORGANIZATION link.
- Select SEARCH BY: ALL and click on the SEARCH button.
- Click on the submission you wish to download to highlight it.
- Click on the DOWNLOAD APPLICATION button.
- You will be prompted to OPEN or SAVE a ZIP file. Click on the button for the option of your choice.

Please make note of the associated tracking number as it will be referenced by the Grants.gov Help Desk. Make note of the ticket number in case you need help from grants.gov.

HUD may extend the application deadline for any program if Grants.gov is offline or not available to applicants for at least 24 hours immediately prior to the deadline date, or the system is down for 24 hours or longer and impacts the ability of applicants to cure a submission deficiency within the grace period.

HUD may also extend the application deadline upon request if there is a presidentially-declared disaster in the applicant's area.

In the event of either of these events, HUD will post a notice on its website that establishes the new, extended deadline for the affected applicants. HUD will also include the fact of the extension in the program's Notice of Funding Awards that is required to be published in the

Federal Register.

In determining whether to grant a request for an extension based on a presidentially-declared disaster, HUD will consider the totality of the circumstances including the date of an applicant's extension request (how closely it followed the basis for the extension), whether other applicants in the geographic area are similarly affected by the disaster, and how quickly power or services are restored to enable the applicant to submit its application.

PLEASE NOTE: Busy servers, slow processing, or large file sizes, improper registration or password issues are not valid circumstances to extend the deadline dates or the grace period.

1. Amending or Resubmitting an Application.

Before the submission deadline, you may amend an application that has been validated by Grants.gov by resubmitting a revised application containing the new or changed material. The resubmitted application must be received and validated by grants.gov by the applicable deadline. If HUD receives an original and a revised application for a single proposal, HUD will evaluate only the last submission received by Grants.gov before the deadline.

2. Grace Period for Grants.gov Submissions.

If your application is received by Grants.gov before the deadline, but is rejected with errors, you have a grace period of 24 hours after the application deadline to submit a corrected application that is received and validated by Grants.gov. The date and time stamp on the Grants.gov system determines the application receipt time. Any application submitted during the grace period that is not received and validated by grants.gov will not be considered for funding. There is no grace period for paper applications.

3. Late Applications.

An application received after the Program NOFA deadline date that does not meet the Grace period requirements will be marked late and will not be received by HUD for funding consideration. Improper or expired registration and password issues are not causes that allow HUD to accept applications after the deadline.

4. Corrections to Deficient Applications.

Except as provided by the electronic submission grace period described in this NOFA, HUD may not consider any information that applicants may want to provide after the application deadline. HUD may not seek or consider clarification of application items or responses that improve the substantive quality of an application or which correct deficiencies which are in whole or part of a rating factor, including items that impact preference points. HUD may contact the applicant to clarify other items in its application. In order not to unreasonably exclude applications from being rated and ranked where there are curable deficiencies, HUD will uniformly notify applicants of each curable deficiency. A curable deficiency is an error or oversight which, if corrected, would not alter, in a positive or negative fashion, the review and rating of the application. Examples of curable (correctable) deficiencies include inconsistencies in the funding request, failure to submit the proper certifications, and failure to submit an application that contains a signature by an official able to make a legally binding commitment on behalf of the applicant. These examples are non-exhaustive.

When HUD identifies a curable deficiency, HUD will notify the authorized representative in item 21 of the SF-424 describing the curable deficiency. The email notifications are the official notification of the need to cure a curable deficiency. Each applicant must provide accurate email addresses for receipt of these notifications and must monitor their email accounts to determine whether a deficiency notification has been received. The applicant must carefully review the request for cure of a curable deficiency and must provide the response in accordance with the instructions contained in the deficiency notification.

Applicants must email corrections of curable deficiencies to applicationsupport@hud.gov within the time limits specified in the notification. The time allowed to correct deficiencies will not exceed 14 calendar days or be less than 48 hours from the date of the email notification. The start of the cure period will be the date stamp on the email sent from HUD (or GrantSolutions). If the deficiency cure deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, Federal holiday, or other day when HUD's Headquarters offices in Washington, DC, are closed, then the applicant's correction must be received on the next business day that HUD Headquarters offices in Washington, DC are open.

The subject line of the email sent to applicationsupport@hud.gov must state: "Technical Cure" and include the Grants.gov application tracking number (e.g., Subject: Technical Cure - GRANT123456). If this information is not included, HUD cannot match the response with the application under review and the application may be rejected due to the deficiency.

Corrections to a paper application must be sent in accordance with and to the address indicated in the notification of deficiency. HUD will treat a paper application submitted in accordance with a waiver of electronic application that contains the wrong DUNS number as having a curable deficiency. Failure to correct the deficiency and meet the requirement to have a DUNS number and active registration in SAM will render the application ineligible for funding.

E. Intergovernmental Review.

This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

F. Funding Restrictions.

1. Statutory Time Limits.

a. Required Obligation Date. Funds appropriated for the Choice Neighborhoods program for FY2017 must be obligated by HUD on or before September 30, 2019. Any funds not obligated by that date will be recaptured by the Treasury and thereafter will no be available for obligation for any purpose.

b. Required Expenditure Date. In accordance with 31 U.S.C. 1552, all FY2017 Choice Neighborhoods funds must be expended by September 30, 2024. Any funds not expended by that date will be cancelled and recaptured by the Treasury and thereafter will not be available for expenditure for any purpose. HUD reserves the right to require an earlier expenditure

deadline under a Grant Agreement.

2. Grant Sizing and Use of Grant Funds.

a. The maximum award for a Planning Grant is \$350,000. Planning activities include all required and eligible activities, except Action Activities. Of these funds, up to \$50,000 may be used toward Early Action Activities that enhance the planning process.

b. The maximum award for a Planning and Action Grant is \$1,300,000. Of this amount, \$350,000 must be used for planning activities conducted during the first 24 months of the grant period. Planning activities include all required and eligible activities, except Action Activities. Of these funds, up to \$50,000 may be used toward Early Action Activities to enhance the planning process. Funds over the \$350,000 designated for the planning process must be used for Action Activities. Applicants are not expected to identify specific Action Activities within the application as they should be developed through the planning process. Within the first 24 months of the grant, Planning and Action Grantees must propose a plan, which must be approved by HUD, that identifies the Action Activities for which these funds will be used. If any Action Activities are subject to environmental review, an environmental review must be completed (see section III.E.2.g) before funds are released. Funds for Action Activities will be withheld by HUD (i.e. obligated to the grantee, but not released) until the plan is approved and the environmental review is complete.

3. Cost Control Standards.

a. Cost estimates must represent an economically viable preliminary plan for designing, planning, and carrying out the proposed activities, in accordance with local costs of labor, materials, and services.

b. Projected soft costs must be reasonable and comparable to industry standards and in accordance with the applicable policy, statute and/or regulations.

4. Budget Deductions. HUD may delete any unallowable items from your budget and may reduce your grant amount accordingly. HUD will not fund any portion of an application that: (a) is not eligible for funding under specific HUD program statutory or regulatory requirements; (b) does not meet the requirements of this notice; or (c) is duplicative of other funded programs or activities from prior year awards or other selected applicants. Only the eligible portions of an application (excluding duplicative portions) may be funded.

5. Grant Reduction or Recapture. If you are selected for funding, and if you propose to make significant changes to your transformation plan, compared to what was presented in this application, HUD reserves the right to amend the award and reduce the amount or recapture the grant. Further, if, as a Planning and Action Grantee, you fail to propose an approvable plan for Action Activities, HUD may amend the award and reduce the amount or recapture an amount of the grant.

6. Withdrawal of Grant Amounts. In accordance with section 24(i) of the 1937 Act, if a grantee does not proceed within a reasonable timeframe, HUD reserves the right to withdraw any funds the grantee has not obligated under its award. HUD may redistribute any withdrawn amounts to one or more other applicants eligible for Choice Neighborhoods assistance or to one or more other entities capable of proceeding expeditiously in the same locality in carrying out the Choice Neighborhoods plan of the original grantee.

7. Ineligible Use of Grant Funds

- a. You may not use Choice Neighborhoods grant funds to pay for any activities carried out on or before the date of the letter announcing the award of the Choice Neighborhoods grant.
- b. You may not use Choice Neighborhoods funds for the cost of Choice Neighborhoods grant application preparation.
- c. No more than the amount specified in the Use of Grant Funds section III.C.8 can be used for Action Activities.
- d. You may not use Choice Neighborhoods grant funds for any Ineligible Activities.

Indirect Cost Rate.

Funding under this NOFA may only be used for direct costs. Therefore, indirect costs are not permitted under this NOFA.

G. Other Submission Requirements.

1. Discrepancies between the NOFA on Grants.gov and Other Documents.

The Program NOFA posted at the Grants.gov website is the official document HUD uses to solicit applications. Applicants are advised to review their application submission against the requirements in the posted Program NOFA. If there is a discrepancy between the Program NOFA posted on Grants.gov and other information provided in any other copy or version or supporting documentation, the posted Program NOFA located at www.Grants.gov prevails. If discrepancies are found, please notify HUD immediately by calling the program contact listed in the Program NOFA. HUD will post any corrections or changes to a Program NOFA on the Grants.gov website. Applicants must enroll an email address at the application download page to receive an e-mail alert from Grants.gov in the event the opportunity is changed.

2. Application Certifications and Assurances.

Applicants signing the SF424 cover page either through electronic submission or in paper copy submission (for those granted a waiver) affirm that the certifications and assurances associated with the application are material representations of the facts upon which HUD will rely when making an award to the applicant. If it is later determined that the signatory to the application submission knowingly made a false certification or assurance or did not have the authority to make a legally binding commitment for the applicant, the applicant may be subject to criminal prosecution, and HUD may terminate the award to the applicant organization or pursue other available remedies. Each applicant is responsible for including the correct certifications and assurances with its application submission, including those applicable to all applicants, those applicable only to federally-recognized Indian tribes, and those applicable to applicants other than federally-recognized Indian tribes. All program-specific certifications and assurances are included in the program Instructions Download on Grants.gov.

3. Lead Based Paint References

When providing housing assistance funding for purchase, lease, support services, operation, or work that may disturb painted surfaces, of pre-1978 housing, you must comply with the lead-based paint evaluation and hazard reduction requirements of HUD's lead-based paint rules (Lead Disclosure; and Lead Safe Housing (24 CFR part 35)), and EPA's lead-based paint rules (e.g., Repair, Renovation and Painting; Pre-Renovation Education; and Lead Training and Certification (40 CFR part 745)).

V. Application Review Information.

A. Review Criteria.

1. Rating Factors.

Applications must respond to the rating factor criteria of the NOFA as the basis to be rated and ranked. Applicants must review and follow any documentation requirements provided in this Rating Factor Section and the instructions on application organization, content and submission provided in IV.B.

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Competition		
Rating Review Score Summary		
Rating Category	Rating Factor	Points
Capacity		
	Capacity to lead the planning process	10
	Resident and community engagement	5
	Capacity of the planning partners	5
subtotal		20
Need		
	<i>Unit Distress</i>	
	Immediate Project Capital Needs	3
	Structural deficiencies	4
	Design deficiencies	4
	<i>Neighborhood Distress</i>	
	Poverty/ELI (Neighborhood poverty)	4

	Long-term vacancy or substandard homes	2
	Part I violent crime	4
	<i>Need for affordable housing</i>	
	Need for affordable housing in the community	1
<i>subtotal</i>		22
Soundness of Approach		
	Resident engagement	5
	Community engagement	4
	Needs assessment	4
	Visioning & decision-making	4
	Partnerships	5
	Doing while planning	5
	Action Activities process	5
	Staffing plan	3
	Planning Schedule	2
	Budget	2
	Consistency with Consolidated Plan and PHA/MTW Plan	1
<i>subtotal</i>		40
Likelihood of Implementation		
	Alignment with existing efforts	4
	Local government support	4
	School District support	2
<i>subtotal</i>		10
Leverage		
	Leverage for planning	6
	Leverage for Action Activities	2

subtotal		8
Bonus Points		
	Preferred Sustainable Communities Status or Promise Zones	2
subtotal		2
	TOTAL	102

A. CAPACITY Maximum Points: 20

1. Capacity to Lead the Planning Process – 10 points. This rating factor evaluates the organizational capacity, based on **past** experience of you **and** your Co-Applicant (if applicable), to effectively lead and coordinate a comprehensive neighborhood planning process and undertake successful Action Activities, as defined in section I.A.3.b.1. What is your and your Co-Applicant’s experience with conducting a comprehensive neighborhood needs assessment? What is your and your Co-Applicant’s experience leading a visioning process with residents and stakeholders? What is your and your Co-Applicant’s experience with leading partners (including governmental agencies and key community stakeholders, such as businesses and civic organization representatives, and especially residents) in prioritizing strategies and creating a cohesive plan? How did you and your Co-Applicant effectively hold these parties accountable throughout the planning process and into the action phases of past projects? What were the results of the neighborhood planning process(es), including physical neighborhood improvements that you or your Co-Applicant led or coordinated that were similar in scope to Action Activities? To demonstrate this past experience, you must provide specific examples that detail your and your Co-Applicant’s extensive and successful experience in the past six years undertaking planning and action activities that support each of the three core goals of Housing, People, and Neighborhood. HUD will consider past performance in accordance with section V.B.1 in its evaluation of this rating factor.

2. Resident and Community Engagement – 5 points. This rating subfactor evaluates the extent to which the application demonstrates that past planning process(es) you or your Co-Applicant led effectively involved and was substantially informed by the community, including residents, faith-based institutions, local business owners, and other community organizations. Applicants should provide concrete examples of resident and community engagement and the outcomes of that engagement.

3. Capacity of the Planning Partners – 5 points. Often, successful planning processes rely on the capacity of additional planning partners. If you do not want the capacity of a planning partner to be evaluated, then respond “N/A” and the capacity of the Lead and Co-Applicant as described in the first rating factor (V.1.A.1) will be assigned up to 15 points instead of up to 10 points. If you choose to respond to this rating factor, you will receive up to 5 points based on the capacity of one specific planning partner and how they will supplement your and your Co-Applicant’s capacity to undertake a comprehensive planning process. Please clearly identify the partner you wish to be evaluated under this factor and describe their capacity as it relates to the questions outlined in the first rating factor (V.1.A.1). For a partner to be considered under this

rating factor, include in your attachments a signed letter or document from the partner indicating their commitment to help lead the planning process and help build your capacity to lead the planning process. If this partner is a Planning Coordinator (defined in section I.A.3.b.20), the Planning Coordinator's capacity will only be evaluated for this rating factor if you include documentation in your attachments that demonstrates you have procured the entity with either a binding contractual agreement in place or you have provided a selection letter to the Planning Coordinator and will enter into a binding contractual agreement. If the contract between you and the Planning Coordinator has been executed, submit a copy of the contract. If you have not executed the contract, submit a copy of the procurement selection letter from you to the Planning Coordinator. The agreement must be between the Lead Applicant and the Planning Coordinator. The documentation must identify duties/tasks for which the Planning Coordinator will be responsible related to this grant and make clear that the agreement will last for the term of the grant. HUD will consider past performance in accordance with section V.B.1 in its evaluation of this rating factor.

B. NEED Maximum Points: 22

1. Severe Physical Distress of Public and/or Assisted Housing. HUD will evaluate the extent of the severe physical distress of the public and/or assisted housing project(s) that are proposed for redevelopment as part of the Choice Neighborhoods grant. You will receive points for the following subfactors, as indicated.

(a) **Immediate Project Capital Needs - 3 points.** An application will be evaluated based on the estimated cost of immediate project capital needs as determined by a Physical Needs Assessment (PNA, as defined in section I.A.3.b.19) that has been conducted within the last three years for the target public and/or assisted housing project(s). You must provide a copy of the PNA's Year 1 capital needs replacement schedule and the PNA's executive summary. The executive summary must be dated and on the letterhead of the entity that conducted it. It should provide a narrative explanation of the replacement needs and costs noted in Year 1 of the housing project's PNA replacement schedule. These applicable PNA excerpts must show the Project's total estimated current costs of immediate project capital needs (not a multi-year lifecycle projection) for the entirety of the target housing project(s). If the PNA was completed more than one year prior to the publication date of this NOFA, you must also include an update by the project's owner indicating which improvements identified in the PNA have been completed. HUD will then calculate the per unit cost as a percentage of the applicable Total Development Cost limit (TDC Limit), as defined at 24 CFR 905.314, in effect at the time this NOFA is published (currently posted on February 22, 2017 in accordance with PIH Notice 2011-38), for a two-bedroom walkup unit. If this application is for more than one public and/or assisted housing project, a PNA excerpt must be submitted for each site and HUD will calculate a weighted average in order to award points. If the targeted units are public housing and HUD has already approved a Section 18 demolition of the targeted units, you will receive full points if you submit a copy of HUD's letter approving the demolition. If the targeted units are Indian Housing that have been demolished, you will receive full points if you submit a copy of the written notification of demolition provided to HUD in accordance with 24 CFR 1000.134. Points will be awarded based on the following table:

Estimated Rehabilitation Needs as Percent of TDC Limit	Points Awarded
At least 60.00 percent	3
Between 45.00 and 59.99 percent	2
Between 35.00 and 44.99 percent	1
Less than 35.00 percent	0

(b) **Structural Deficiencies - 4 points.** An application will be evaluated based on the extent to which it demonstrates significant deficiencies in the structural elements, building systems, and on-site infrastructure of the targeted public and/or assisted housing units such that significant rehabilitation or demolition is required. Examples of structural elements include roofs, foundations, and structural walls. Building systems include electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling, and mechanical systems. On-site infrastructure includes site work, sewer and storm drain laterals, or other on-site utilities. If the targeted units are public housing and HUD has already approved demolition of the targeted units you will receive full points if you submit a copy of HUD’s letter approving the demolition. If the targeted units are Indian Housing that have been demolished, you will receive full points if you submit a copy of the written notification of demolition provided to HUD in accordance with 24 CFR1000.134. If this application is for more than one public and/or assisted housing project, descriptions must be submitted for each site and HUD will consider documentation provided for all properties.

Provide a letter in your attachments signed by a registered engineer or architect and including a narrative description. It may be supplemented by physical inspection reports or pictures. (The Certification of Severe Physical Distress submitted to satisfy the Eligible Target Housing requirement is not sufficient to earn points for this rating factor, though it may be signed by the same person that signs the letter required for this rating factor). The letter must be based on a recent physical inspection and dated no more than 18 months prior to the publication of this NOFA.

Fewer points may be awarded for descriptions that are inadequate and/or demonstrate less severe distress. Zero points will be awarded if the documentation in your attachments is not in the format required (e.g., not a letter signed by a registered architect or engineer), does not demonstrate severe distress, the deficiencies are cosmetic or require routine repair/maintenance, or does not provide adequate information to make HUD’s rating of this factor possible.

(c) **Design Deficiencies - 4 points.** An application will be evaluated based on the extent to which it demonstrates that there are fundamental design deficiencies, of a type and character that require substantial rehabilitation or reconstruction to fully address, related to: (a) substantially inappropriate building design or site layout and street connectivity when compared to the surrounding neighborhood which may include inappropriate density; (b) inadequate room size and/or unit configurations to meet the needs of existing residents; (c) lack of defensible space related to building layout and orientation; (d) disproportionately high and adverse environmental health effects associated with ongoing residency; (e) inaccessibility for persons with disabilities with regard to individual units (i.e., less than 5 percent of units are accessible), entrances/entryways, and common areas; and (f) significant utility expenses (at least 30 percent higher than similar properties) caused by energy conservation deficiencies that may be documented by an energy audit. You may demonstrate this in your application through

narrative description, additional physical inspection information, letters from relevant oversight agencies, and/or pictures in the attachments section. If this application is for more than one public and/or assisted housing project, descriptions should be submitted for each site and HUD will consider documentation provided for all properties. If the target housing has already been demolished, then you must provide narrative related to design deficiencies at the time of demolition.

(a) You will receive **4** points if your application demonstrates fundamental design deficiencies, of a type and character that require substantial rehabilitation or reconstruction to fully address, in 3 or more of these deficiencies.

(b) Fewer points will be awarded for applications that address fewer than 3 items, demonstrate less severe distress, and/or for responses that are inadequate.

(c) You will receive **0** points if your application does not address any of these items, does not demonstrate distress, or does not address this subfactor to an extent that makes HUD’s rating of this subfactor possible.

2. Severe Distress of the Targeted Neighborhood. Choice Neighborhoods is intended to be a tool to help communities turn around the most distressed neighborhoods. HUD will evaluate the level of this neighborhood-wide distress by examining several factors: poverty, crime rates and vacancy rates. You will receive points by addressing the following separate factors, as indicated.

(a) **Neighborhood Poverty - 4 points.** An application will be evaluated based on the concentration of households in poverty or with extremely low incomes (whichever is greater) residing within the target neighborhood. HUD will use the same data from the mapping tool as used for the Eligible Neighborhood requirement to assign points for this factor.

Concentration of Households in Poverty or with Extremely Low Incomes	Points Awarded
40.00 percent and above	4
Between 35.00 and 39.99 percent	3
Between 30.00 and 34.99 percent	2
Between 25.00 and 29.99 percent	1
24.99 percent and below	0

(b) **Long-term Vacancy or Substandard Homes - 2 points.** An application will be evaluated based on the current rate of long-term vacant properties or substandard homes within the target neighborhood. Only applicants targeting Indian housing may be evaluated based on substandard homes.

i. You will earn points for the higher of either the rate of vacant housing or the ratio of vacant housing in the neighborhood to the county/parish in accordance with the table below. HUD will use data from the mapping tool to determine the vacancy rate for this scoring criteria and the Eligible Neighborhood requirement.

Current Long-Term Vacancy Rate in the Target Neighborhood	Current Long-Term Vacancy Rate in the Neighborhood is X times the County/Parish	Points Awarded
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14.00 percent and above	More than 4.00	2
Between 7.00 and 13.99 percent	Between 2.00 and 3.99	1
6.99 percent and below	1.99 and below	0

ii. Alternatively, applications targeting Indian housing can be evaluated based on the percentage of occupied housing units lacking complete plumbing facilities, as indicated by the most recent data from the American Community Survey (ACS) for your neighborhood. If the rate is 8.00 percent or above, the application will earn 2 points. If the rate is between 4.00 and 7.99 percent, the application will earn 1 point. ACS data from Census tracts that cover the majority of the neighborhood can be used to approximate neighborhood-level data (please indicate tracts). In your attachments you must include a photocopy/print out of published data including the relevant full page or pages from the original source, such as a printed publication or website, and the source must be identifiable on the photocopy/print out itself, for example through a header or footer identifying the publication or a website link.

(c) **Part I Violent Crime Rate - 4 points.** You may receive up to 4 points based on the rate of Part I violent crimes for the precinct/PSA in which the target housing is located for the three years 2014-2016 (measured as Part I violent crimes per 1,000 persons). You must submit data for each of the three years, and preferably break out the number of incidences for each of the four classifications of Part I violent crimes, in your attachments as a letter of certification from the local law enforcement agency or by providing a photocopy/print out of published local law enforcement data. If providing the latter, the photocopy/print out must include the relevant full page or pages from the original source, such as a printed publication or website, and the source must be identifiable on the photocopy/print out itself, for example through a header or footer that identifies the publication or a website link. You will earn points for the higher of the 3-year average for either the rate compared to the city/county/parish or the rate in accordance with the applicable table below. This rating factor does not apply to applicants who are tribal entities. Applications targeting Indian housing will automatically be awarded full points and do not need to submit the crime documentation listed above.

Part I Violent Crime Rate - crimes per 1000 residents in precinct/PSA of Target Housing	Part I Violent Crime Rate of precinct/PSA is X times the City/County/Parish*	Points Awarded
26.50 or more	2.50 or more	4
Between 24.00 and 26.49	Between 2.25 and 2.49	3
Between 21.50 and 23.99	Between 2.00 and 2.24	2
Between 19.00 and 21.49	Between 1.75 and 1.99	1
18.99 or less	1.74 or less	0

*In non-metropolitan areas, if the Precinct/PSA is coterminous with the County/Parish, the applicant may compare its Part I violent crime rate to that of the state.

You will also receive 0 points if the data are not for the time-period specified (calendar years 2014-2016), in the format required (i.e. shows each of the three years individually, indicates the number of incidents per 1,000 residents), or otherwise inadequate to make HUD's rating of this factor possible.

3. Need for Affordable Housing in the Community – 1 point. You will receive 1 point if the Choice Neighborhoods project is in a county/parish where the shortage of housing affordable to very low-income (VLI) renter households (0 to 50 percent AMI) is greater than the national rate using the most currently available Census Data. HUD will use data included in the mapping tool for this rating factor. The shortage rate is calculated as the number of VLI renter households divided by the number of rental units affordable and available to VLI households, where affordable and available equals units that: (1) have rents not exceeding 30 percent of 50 percent of AMI; and (2) are vacant or occupied by a VLI renter household.

C. SOUNDNESS OF APPROACH

Maximum Points: 40

This factor addresses the quality and feasibility of your proposed work plan and evaluates how well you have developed a sound and achievable strategy for leading a collaborative planning process that will develop a comprehensive Transformation Plan aligned with the three core goals of Choice Neighborhoods – Housing, People, and Neighborhood.

1. Resident Engagement – 5 points. Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the application demonstrates how public and/or HUD-assisted housing residents of the target housing will be meaningfully engaged in the planning process. How will you conduct continuing outreach to target housing residents and encourage a broad range of target housing residents to engage in the planning process? How will you ensure target housing residents substantially inform the Transformation Plan, including the vision, priorities, and strategies? How will you build capacity among target housing residents to do this.

2. Community Engagement – 4 points. Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the application demonstrates how other neighborhood residents and community-based partners, including community organizations, faith-based institutions and local business owners, will be meaningfully engaged in the planning process. How will you conduct continuing outreach to these populations to engage them throughout the planning process? How will you ensure neighborhood residents and community-based partners substantially inform the Transformation Plan, including the vision, priorities, and strategies?

3. Needs Assessment – 4 points. Points will be awarded based on the quality of your plan to assess your community's unique needs and assets to substantially inform the Transformation Plan. How will you identify: current needs and assets; what has and has not worked; the quality of existing services and amenities; and potential barriers and opportunities related to Housing, Neighborhood, and People? How will you conduct your household-level needs assessment and ensure a high rate of response? From which other partners and sources will you collect needs assessment data and how will you do this? In what other ways will you capture open-ended information from residents and stakeholders to explore the meaning behind needs assessment results?

4. Visioning and Decision-Making – 4 points. Points will be awarded based on the soundness of your approach to facilitate visioning and decision-making within the planning process. How will your process create, in partnership with residents and stakeholders, a shared vision for the neighborhood that is specific to the strengths and challenges of the neighborhood? How will you select shared target goals that are measurable, and who will be involved in this process? How will you collectively prioritize among multiple, differing

strategies to create a cohesive Transformation Plan, and who will be involved in this process?

5. Partnerships – 5 points. Points will be awarded based on the breadth, quality, and depth of your partnerships as they relate to the neighborhood needs and their contribution to the planning process. Who are the partners that have committed to substantially contribute to the planning process to develop the Transformation Plan, including partners in the areas of housing, neighborhood, public safety, education, employment, and health? What will their roles be in the planning process and how will they substantially contribute to the Transformation Plan? With what partners have you not yet engaged but plan to, and what is your strategy for building these additional partnerships? In your attachments, please include unique, individual letters (not form letters) from your partners that indicate their support of the proposed planning process and describe their role in it (such as contribution of resources and expertise related to specific tasks and components of the planning process, leadership positions in working groups or committees, etc.).

6. Doing While Planning – 5 points. “Doing while planning” projects can increase confidence in the neighborhood, respond to community concerns in real time, and help convince skeptical stakeholders that positive change is possible. To demonstrate your commitment to “doing while planning,” describe at least one project in the neighborhood that will be carried out during the first 24 months of the Planning Grant. Points will be awarded based on how well the proposed project(s) fosters community engagement, responds to community needs, enhances the neighborhood. Successful applicants can choose to fund this project(s) through leveraged commitments and/or the Choice Neighborhoods Early Action Activities funds (i.e., up to \$50,000). “Doing while planning” projects using Early Action Activities funds must be limited to the activities listed as Early Action Activities in section I.A.3.f, whereas “doing while planning” projects funded by leveraged commitments are not limited to this list. No matter what funding sources are used, the following projects will not be considered under this rating subfactor: supportive services, marketing, basic infrastructure, basic municipal services, or the demolition, relocation, construction, or rehabilitation of the target housing.

7. Action Activities Process – 5 points. If awarded a Planning and Action Grant, you must use all grant funds over \$350,000 for Action Activities. These activities must evolve from the planning process. Up to 5 points will be awarded based on your plan for how you will select Action Activities. What process will you use for identifying Action Activities that will best enhance and accelerate the transformation of the neighborhood? How will you, in partnership with residents and stakeholders, prioritize Action Activities? What criteria or guidelines will you use to evaluate potential projects? How will you ensure the funds are used strategically, encourage additional investment in the neighborhood, and have a lasting impact? If you are requesting a Planning Grant only for the planning process (up to \$350,000), mark this section "n/a" in your application.

8. Staffing Plan - 3 points. You may receive up to 3 points for providing a detailed and feasible staffing plan for completing all of your proposed planning activities. The Staffing Plan should include an organizational chart that identifies the various organizations participating in the planning effort and shows their relationship to each other in the governance structure (e.g., decision makers, advisors, stakeholders, working groups). The Staffing Plan should identify the principal staff positions (individuals’ names are not required) and the percentage of their time that will be dedicated to the planning process. Please provide a description of your staffing plan

in the narrative exhibits and the organizational chart in your attachments.

9. Planning Schedule - 2 points. You may receive up to 2 points for providing a detailed and feasible schedule for completing all of your proposed planning activities within the first 24 months of the effective date of the Grant Agreement, including required activities listed in section III.E.1.a, other eligible activities proposed as part of your planning process to develop the Transformation Plan, your proposed doing while planning project(s), and your proposed Action Activities Planning Process (unless you selected the “Planning Grant Only” option). The schedule should identify each significant activity and milestone required for completing the planning process and should list the planned start and completion dates of all tasks. You may provide additional description of your schedule in the narrative exhibits.

10. Budget - 2 points. You may receive up to 2 points for providing a budget for the planning activities related to the grant, including required activities listed in section III.E.1.a, other eligible activities proposed as part of your planning process to develop the Transformation Plan, your proposed doing while planning project(s), and identify proposed Action Activities (unless you selected the “Planning Grant Only” option). Because the Action Activities themselves will be identified and proposed later, applicants must designate any requested Choice Neighborhoods funds over \$350,000 as a single line item labeled, “Action Activities TBD.” Your budget will be evaluated based on the extent to which it shows projected sources and thoroughly estimates all applicable costs in a clear and coherent format, and the extent to which the projected sources are sufficient for the scope of your proposed planning process. In your attachments, provide a detailed Sources and Uses statement that reflects all funding. The proposed uses for the Choice Neighborhoods funds must be identified in a separate column from other funds. You may provide additional description of your budget in the narrative exhibits as needed to provide further detail on costs and/or restrictions associated with other sources.

11. Consistency with Consolidated Plan and PHA/MTW Plan - 1 point. You will receive 1 point if the proposed planning process is consistent with the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction in which the target neighborhood is located and, as applicable, the PHA Plan or MTW Plan. All applications must include the Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (form HUD-2991) in your attachments. If there is a public housing site targeted in the application, then the application must also include a letter signed by the PHA Executive Director or Board Chair that the intention to plan for redevelopment of the target housing site is included in the most recently approved PHA/MTW Plan. Zero points will be awarded if the required documentation is not provided. Applications that target Indian housing will automatically be awarded 1 point and do not need to submit any documentation.

D. LIKELIHOOD OF IMPLEMENTATION Maximum Points: 10

These rating factors evaluate the extent to which each applicant demonstrates the planning process proposed in this application will create sustainable momentum that persists through implementation.

1. Alignment with Existing Efforts – 4 points. You may receive 4 points if the target housing and the surrounding neighborhood are located in an officially designated investment priority area (e.g., redevelopment area, Tax Increment Finance district, CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area, etc.). For tribal entities, you may receive 5 points if you have secured an Indian Community Development Block Grant for a project in your neighborhood

and that project is currently underway. All applicants must provide a copy of the relevant section from an official plan or a letter from the appropriate official in your attachments in order to demonstrate that you meet the criteria under this rating factor. Zero points will be awarded if the required documentation is not provided or if the designation is only pending.

2. Local Government Support - 4 points. You will receive 4 points if your application contains a letter signed by the chief executive officer or highest ranking Housing/Community Development/Planning official of your local government indicating support for this planning process. For tribal entities, you will receive 3 points if your application contains a tribal resolution or its equivalent indicating support for this planning process. You must include documentation in your attachments. If the local government is Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant, the application will automatically receive 3 points.

3. School District Support - 2 points. You will receive 2 points if your application contains a letter signed by either the superintendent of your local public school district or, if there is a K-12 public school in the neighborhood, the school principal indicating support for this planning process and committing to serving on the steering committee (or similar advisory body) during the planning process. You must include documentation in your attachments.

E. LEVERAGE

Maximum Points: 8

HUD views leveraged commitments as an indicator of support in the community for this comprehensive neighborhood planning effort. These additional resources will also increase the effectiveness of the proposed grant activities. These rating factors evaluate the extent to which you demonstrate that you have secured financial commitments, in the form of cash, from other sources to implement the activities proposed in this application, in accordance with the criteria below.

1. Program Requirements that Apply to Leverage. You must follow these requirements in compiling and documenting leverage for purposes of the NOFA. Otherwise, it may not be possible for HUD to count the commitment at the level claimed. These general requirements apply to all leverage resource commitments.

(a) **Firmly Committed.** Resources must be firmly committed as of the application deadline date. "Firmly committed" means that the amount of the resource and its dedication to Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Activities is explicit. Endorsements or general letters of support from organizations or vendors alone will not count as resources and should not be included in the application.

(b) **Content.** Leverage documents must represent valid and accurate commitments of future support. They must detail the dollar amount and any terms of the commitment. They must also indicate the funding is available to you for the activities directly related to developing the Transformation Plan and Early Action Activities or for undefined Action Activities to be determined by the planning process.

(1) HUD will not accept letters committing funding for supportive services, housing construction, or target housing rehabilitation, demolition, or relocation. Funds for specific infrastructure and other physical projects will only be accepted if they are directly related to the Early Action Activities.

(2) Because Action Activities must be identified through a community planning process and

then must be approved by HUD, HUD will only count cash leverage for undefined Action Activities. Letters must state that the committed funds will be set aside for Action Activities that will be defined through a community planning process and approved by HUD.

(3) If a commitment document is for more than one resource/amount, they should be indicated individually in the document rather than in one lump sum.

(4) An example of a valid and accurate commitment: “X Agency commits to providing \$100,000 in funds for a geotechnical study to support the FY2017 Choice Neighborhoods Planning activities [or Action Activities] for ABC housing development.”

(c) Signature. Resource commitments must be written and signed by a person authorized to make the commitment and dated. For example, the PHA’s Executive Director cannot commit the funds of another agency, organization or government body (unless you can demonstrate otherwise in the application).

(d) Letterhead. Commitment letters must be on letterhead or they will not be accepted.

(e) If the commitment document is not included in the application and submitted before the NOFA deadline date, it will not be considered.

(f) Staff time and benefits of the Lead Applicant and/or Co-Applicant (if any) are not an eligible leverage resource.

(g) Sources of Leverage. Funding may come from a variety of sources, including any of the following:

(1) Public, private, and nonprofit entities;

(2) State and local housing finance agencies;

(3) Local governments;

(4) Tribal entities and Tribal organizations eligible under Title I of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act;

(5) Foundations;

(6) Government Sponsored Enterprises such as the Federal Home Loan Bank, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac;

(7) HUD and other federal agencies, provided the statutory language of the funding source allows the funds to be used for these purposes. Public Housing funds and other funding provided under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended may be not used as match or leverage. In the case of HUD’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the work activity must be included in the CDBG recipient’s annual action plan. Such plans may be amended to include the Choice Neighborhoods funded activity(ies);

(8) Financial institutions, banks, or insurers; and

(9) Other private funders.

(h) Match. Funds used to meet the five percent match requirement (see section III.B) may be counted toward leverage for purposes of this rating factor.

2. Rating.

(a) **Leverage for Planning - 6 points.** You will receive up to 6 points in accordance with the table below based on the amount of cash leverage commitments for the planning process (including Early Action Activities) relative to the amount of grant funds requested for the planning process.

Cash Leverage Commitments as Percent of Grant Funds Requested for Planning (Applications for a Metro area)	Cash Leverage Commitments as a Percent of Grant Funds Requested for Planning (Applications for a Non-metro Area or targeting Indian housing)	Points Awarded
70 percent and above	35 percent and above	6
Between 60.00 and 69.99 percent	Between 30.00 and 34.99 percent	5
Between 50.00 and 59.99 percent	Between 25.00 and 29.99 percent	4
Between 40.00 and 49.99 percent	Between 20.00 and 24.99 percent	3
Between 25.00 and 39.99 percent	Between 12.50 and 19.99 percent	2
Between 10.00 and 24.99 percent	Between 5.00 and 12.49 percent	1
Below 10.00 percent	Below 5.00 percent	0

(b) **Leverage for Action Activities - 2 points.** You will receive up to 2 points in accordance with the table below based on the amount of cash leverage commitments for Action Activities relative to \$950,000 (the amount of grant funds allowed for Action Activities). This rating factor is not applicable to HUD's evaluation for a Planning-only Grant.

Cash Leverage Commitments as Percent of \$950,000 (Applications for a Metro area)	Cash Leverage Commitments as a Percent of \$950,000 (Applications for a Non-metro Area or targeting Indian housing)	Points Awarded
25 percent and above	12.50 percent and above	2
Between 10.00 and 24.99 percent	Between 5.00 and 12.49 percent	1
Below 10.00 percent	Below 5.00 percent	0

2. Preference Points.

HUD encourages activities in communities with Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS) and/or Promise Zones (PZ). HUD will award two (2) points for qualified activities within a designated zone or area and supporting either or both initiative(s). In no case will HUD award more than two preference points for these activities.

a. To receive Preferred Sustainability Status Communities Preference Points, applicants must submit form HUD 2995, Certification of Consistency with Sustainable Communities Planning and Implementation, signed by the designated Preferred Sustainability Status Community point of contact. Designated PSS Communities Points of Contacts can be found on HUD's website ([click here](#)).

b. To receive Promise Zones Preference Points, applicants must submit form HUD 50153, Certification of Consistency with Promise Zone Goals and Implementation, signed by the Promise Zone Official authorized to certify the project meets the criteria to receive preference points. To view the list of designated Promise Zones and persons authorized to certify, please see the [Promise Zone pages on HUDEXchange](#).

B. Review and Selection Process.

1. Past Performance

In evaluating applications for funding, HUD will take into account an applicant's past performance in managing funds. Items HUD may consider include, but are not limited to:

- a. The ability to account for funds appropriately;
- b. Timely use of funds received from HUD;
- c. Timely submission and quality of reports submitted to HUD;
- d. Meeting program requirements;
- e. Meeting performance targets as established in the grant agreement;
- f. The applicant's organizational capacity, including staffing structures and capabilities;
- g. Time-lines for completion of activities and receipt of promised matching or leveraged funds; and
- h. The number of persons to be served or targeted for assistance.

HUD may deduct points from the rating score or establish threshold levels as specified under the Factors for Award in the Program NOFAs. Each Program NOFA will specify how past performance will be rated or otherwise used in the determination of award amounts. Whenever possible, HUD will obtain past performance information from staff with the greatest knowledge and understanding of each applicant's performance. If this evaluation results in an adverse finding related to integrity or performance, HUD reserves the right to take any of the remedies provided in Section III.C.2.b.(5), Pre-selection Review of Performance, above.

2. Assessing Applicant Risk

HUD's selection process is designed to ensure grants are awarded to eligible applicants submitting the most meritorious applications. HUD will consider the information you submit by the application deadline date. After the application deadline date, HUD may not, consistent with its regulations in 24 CFR part 4, subpart B, consider any unsolicited information that you or any third party may want to provide. HUD may verify information provided in your application as needed by sending a written request for clarification. Responses to such inquiries will be required within 2 business days.

a. Application Screening.

(1) HUD will screen each application to determine if the Key Eligibility Criteria in section III.A are met. If it does not, the application will be deemed ineligible and will not receive further review. If yes, then HUD will screen for technical deficiencies and if it meets the other threshold criteria listed in section III.C.

(2) Corrections to Deficient Applications – Cure Period. In accordance with section V.B.7 of

the General Section (entitled, “Corrections to Deficient Applications”) and section IV.D.4 of this NOFA, corrections of technical deficiencies must be submitted within five business days of the date of the notification from HUD. If the deficiency cure deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, federal holiday, or other day when HUD’s Headquarters offices in Washington, DC, are closed, then the applicant’s correction must be received on the next day that HUD Headquarters offices in Washington, DC, are open. Examples of curable (correctable) technical deficiencies include, but are not limited to, inconsistencies in the funding request, the Key Eligibility Data Form is not filled out completely, failure to submit the standard forms (e.g., form HUD-2880), and failure to submit a signature and/or date of signature on a certification. Failure to submit a narrative exhibit or an attachment is not a technical deficiency that can be correctable.

(3) Applications that will not be rated or ranked. HUD will not rate or rank applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria, do not meet the Threshold Requirements described in III.C, are deficient at the end of the cure period stated above. Such applications will not be eligible for funding.

b. Preliminary Rating and Ranking. Reviewers will preliminarily rate each eligible application, SOLELY on the basis of the rating factors described in V.A of this NOFA and assign a preliminary score for each rating factor and total score. HUD will then rank applications in score order in two lists: one for Planning and Action Grants and one for Planning Grants.

c. Final Panel Review. A Final Review Panel will:

(1) Review the Preliminary Rating and Ranking documentation to ensure any inconsistencies between preliminary reviewers are identified and rectified and to ensure the Preliminary Rating and Ranking documentation accurately reflects the contents of the application.

(2) Assign a final score to each application and rank them in score order; and

(3) Recommend for selection the most highly rated applications, subject to the amount of available funding.

d. Selection Considerations:

(1) Minimum scoring. To qualify for a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, applicants must earn a minimum of 50 percent of the points for each overall Rating Factor category in Need, Capacity and Soundness of Approach. Any applicant not earning these minimum scoring criteria will not be awarded a grant.

(2) Tie Scores. If two or more applications have the same score and there are insufficient funds to select all of them, HUD will select the application(s) with the highest score for the overall Need Rating Factors. If a tie remains, HUD will select the application(s) with the highest score for the overall Soundness of Approach Rating Factors, then overall Capacity Rating Factors.

(3) Grant Type. HUD will first award Planning and Action Grants to the top scoring applicants that requested such a grant. Applications that do not score high enough to receive a Planning and Action Grant will then be considered for a Planning Grant along with applications that only requested a Planning Grant. The rating factors indicated as 'not applicable' to Planning-only grants in section V.A.1 will not be considered.

e. Remaining Funds. HUD reserves the right to reallocate remaining funds from this NOFA to other eligible activities under section 24 of the 1937 Act, including Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants. If the total amount of funds requested by all applications found eligible for funding under this NOFA is less than the amount of funds available from this NOFA, all eligible applications will be funded in rank order and those funds in excess of the total requested amount will be considered remaining funds. If the total amount of funds requested by all

applications found eligible for funding under this NOFA is greater than the amount of funds available from this NOFA, eligible applications will be funded until the amount of non-awarded funds is less than the amount required to feasibly fund the next eligible application. In this case, the funds that have not been awarded will be considered remaining funds.

C. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates.

HUD anticipates announcing awards under this NOFA approximately 5 months after the application due date.

VI. Award Administration Information.

A. Award Notices.

Following the evaluation process HUD will notify successful applicants of their selection for funding. HUD will also notify all other applicants, whose applications were received by the deadline, that have not been chosen for award. Notifications will be sent by email to the person listed as the AOR in item 21 of the SF-424.

1. Negotiation. Section VI.D.2 of the General Section is hereby incorporated.
2. Adjustments to Funding. The Adjustments to Funding section of VI.D.3 of the General Section is hereby incorporated. Specifically, HUD may adjust the grant award amount for any or all applications in order to meet any statutory requirement that designates a portion of the FY2017 Choice Neighborhoods appropriations to be awarded to public housing authorities.
3. Performance and Compliance Actions of Funding Recipients. Section VI.D.4 of the General Section is hereby incorporated.
4. Funding Errors. Section VI.D.5 of the General Section is hereby incorporated.
5. Debriefing. HUD will provide each applicant who has been rated a copy of the total score received by its application and the score received for each rating factor. In addition, section VI.D.6 of the General Section is hereby incorporated.
6. Initial Announcement. The HUD Reform Act prohibits HUD from notifying you as to whether or not you have been selected to receive a grant until it has announced all grant recipients. If your application has been found to be ineligible or if it did not receive enough points to be funded, you will not be notified until the successful applicants have been notified. HUD will provide written notification to all applicants, whether or not they have been selected for funding.
7. Award Letter. The notice of award letter is signed by the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing and will be delivered by email and the U.S. Postal Service.
8. Choice Neighborhoods Grant Agreement. When you are selected to receive a Choice Neighborhoods grant, HUD will send you a grant agreement, which constitutes the contract between you and HUD to carry out and fund Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant activities or Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant activities. It is effective on the date of HUD's signature.

B. Administrative, National and Department Policy Requirements.

For this NOFA, the following requirements apply:

C. Reporting.

HUD requires recipients to submit performance and financial reports under OMB guidance and program instructions.

1. Reporting Requirements and Frequency of Reporting. This Program NOFA and award agreement will specify the reporting requirements, including content, method of data collection, and reporting frequency. Applicants should be aware that if the total Federal share of your Federal award may include more than \$ 500,000 over the period of performance, you may be subject to post award reporting requirements reflected in Appendix XII to Part 200--Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

2. Race, Ethnicity and Other Data Reporting. HUD requires recipients that provide HUD-funded program benefits to individuals or families to report data on the race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap (disability), and family characteristics of persons and households who are applicants for, participants in, or beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries of HUD programs in order to carry out the Department's responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act, Executive Order 11063, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 562 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987. Program NOFAs may specify the data collection and reporting requirements. Many programs use the Race and Ethnic Data U.S. Department of Housing OMB Approval No. 2535-0113 Reporting Form HUD-27061.

3. Performance Reporting. All HUD funded programs, including this program, require recipients to submit, not less than annually, a report documenting achievement of outcomes under the purpose of the program and the work plan in the award agreement.

5. Quarterly Report. If you are selected for funding, you must submit a quarterly report to HUD. HUD will provide training and technical assistance on the filing and submitting of quarterly reports. Filing of quarterly reports is mandatory for all grantees, and failure to do so within the required timeframe will result in suspension of grant funds until the report is filed and approved by HUD. Grantees will be held to the milestones in the program schedule, as approved by HUD. Grantees must also report obligations and expenditures in LOCCS, or its successor system, on a quarterly basis.

6. Final Report. The grantees shall submit a final report, which will include a financial report and a copy of its Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan. The financial report shall contain a summary of all expenditures made from the beginning of the grant agreement to the end of the grant agreement and shall include any unexpended balances. The final narrative and financial report shall be due to HUD 90 days after either the full expenditure of funds, or when the grant term expires, whichever comes first.

Please direct questions regarding specific reporting requirements to the point of contact listed in Section VII. Agency Contact(s), below.

D. Debriefing.

For a period of at least 120 days, beginning 30 days after the awards for a Program NOFA are publicly announced, HUD will provide to a requesting applicant a debriefing related to its

application. A request for debriefing must be made in writing or by email by the authorized official whose signature appears on the SF424 or by his or her successor in office, and be submitted to the person, organization, or email address identified as the contact under the section entitled Agency Contact(s) in the Program NOFA. Information provided during a debriefing may include the final score the applicant received for each rating factor, final evaluator comments for each rating factor, and the final assessment indicating the basis upon which funding was approved or denied.

VII. Agency Contact(s).

HUD staff will be available to provide clarification on the content of this NOFA. Please note that HUD staff cannot assist applicants in preparing their applications.

Questions regarding specific program requirements for this NOFA should be directed to the point of contact listed below.

ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov

Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

VIII. Other Information.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement. The information collection requirements in this notice have been approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C.3501-3520). In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a valid OMB control number. Each Program NOFA will identify its applicable OMB control number unless its collection of information is excluded from these requirements under 5 CFR part 1320.

National Environmental Policy Act.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the environment has been made for this NOFA in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 50, which implement section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)). The FONSI is available for inspection at HUD's Funds Available web page at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail.

Posting Application Information. After the selection process, HUD may post on-line certain summary and contact information from Choice Neighborhoods applications (e.g., the Executive Summary, neighborhood map, Lead Applicant contact information) in order to facilitate connections between eligible applicants (both those selected for grant funding and those who are not) and other entities (e.g., foundations, philanthropies) interested in supporting the project proposed in the application.

