



HUD NEWS

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FOR RELEASE

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HUD AWARDS \$1.3 MILLION CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT TO MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY AND NEAR WEST SIDE PARTNERS

*Planning Grant awarded to develop Transformation Plan targeting the
HUD assisted College Court development and surrounding community*

MILWAUKEE – Expanding on its commitment to help local communities redevelop severely distressed assisted housing and to revitalize neighborhoods, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded nearly \$5 million to six communities across the nation, including \$1,300,000 awarded to Marquette University and Near West Side Partners (NWSP) to revitalize HUD assisted College Court and the Near West Side community in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

NWSP and Marquette University will work with the other Near West Side anchor institutions - Advocate Aurora Health, Harley-Davidson, MillerCoors, Potawatomi Business Development Corporation - along with other key partners, including Business Improvement District #10, City of Milwaukee, Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, LISC, Marquette University Center for Peacemaking, Marquette Democracy Lab, Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership / BIG STEP.

The Marquette University and the Near West Side Partners award is one of only three grantees that received an additional \$950,000 for “Action Activities” within their award. This additional funding may be used to build momentum and attract additional investment. Eligible uses include recycling vacant property into community gardens, pocket parks, or farmers markets; beautification, place-making and community arts projects; homeowner and business façade improvement programs; neighborhood broadband or wi-fi; fresh food initiatives; and gap financing for economic development projects.

Through the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, Marquette University and NWSP will develop a comprehensive Transformation Plan that encompasses past plans with an eye towards improving housing opportunities for residents. Partners will create a roadmap to revitalize the distressed, 248-unit College Court housing development and increase investment in the surrounding neighborhood in the Near West Side. Marquette and NWSP will work with residents and stakeholders to develop consensus on desired outcomes and create a shared, comprehensive vision for the neighborhood.

HUD Midwest Regional Administrator Joseph P. Galvan indicated, “Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants will help breathe new life into distressed neighborhoods, transforming them into revitalized and vibrant communities where residents can thrive to their God-given potential. Funding will not only help leverage public-private partnerships and restoration but also give rise new hope, healing and opportunity.”

“The City of Milwaukee is thankful to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for this investment in the future of Milwaukee’s Near West Side,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “The Near West Side Partners are a great example of neighbors joining together to improve the quality of life in their community. The Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant will build upon years of collaborative work between the City of Milwaukee, Near West Side Partners, the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, and other partners. This award comes at a pivotal time to help this neighborhood of neighborhoods continue building momentum and attracting additional investment for revitalization.”

“On behalf of the other Near West Side anchor institutions – Aurora Health Care, Harley-Davidson, MillerCoors and Potawatomi Business Development Corporation – Marquette University is grateful to HUD for making this very significant investment in an iconic Milwaukee neighborhood” indicated Dr. Michael Lovell, President of Marquette University. The power of our partnership is profound, and this grant award affirms the great momentum in the Near West Side.”

Keith Stanley, Executive Director of Near West Side Partners, Inc. said, “Thank you to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for recognizing our commitment to Milwaukee’s Near West Side. We’re excited that this planning grant will enable us to improve housing opportunities for our residents. The award is a testament to the commitment of our Near West Side Partners’ anchor institutions over the past three-plus years as we aim to be a national model for community engagement. It will allow us to leverage the tremendous growth that is occurring elsewhere in the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin.”

“This funding investment will support the efforts of a sound public-private partnership to develop a plan to improve the availability of quality, affordable housing for Milwaukee’s Near West Side,” said Tony Pérez, Secretary-Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. “In addition, the Housing Authority is pleased to join with the Near West Side Partners to continue their thoughtful examination of all the components beyond housing that are necessary to bring renewal and health to the entire neighborhood.”

Through Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants, local governments, housing authorities, residents, nonprofits, tribal authorities, private developers, school districts, police departments, and other civic organizations create a common vision and develop effective strategies to revitalize their neighborhood. The resulting Transformation Plan lays the foundation for revitalizing the distressed public and/or assisted housing units, transforming the surrounding neighborhood, and promoting opportunities for families.

HUD's Choice Neighborhoods program promotes a comprehensive approach to transforming neighborhoods struggling to address the interconnected challenges of distressed housing, inadequate schools, poor health, high crime, and historic disinvestment. Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals:

- **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.
- **People:** Improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children’s education; and
- **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.

HUD is awarding Choice Neighborhood Planning grants to the following communities:

ST	Lead Recipient (Co-Recipient, if applicable)	Target Housing Address	City	Amount
AL	Housing Authority of the City of Phenix City -City of Phenix, AL	Frederick Douglass Homes 400 12th Ave. Phenix, AL 36867	Phenix City	\$250,000
AZ	City of Tucson	Tucson House 1501 N Oracle Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705	Tucson	\$1,300,000
IL	Urban Strategies, Inc. - Housing Authority of the City of East St. Louis	Samuel Gompers Homes 450 N. 6th Street East St. Louis, IL 62201	East St. Louis	\$350,000
MD	Housing Authority of Baltimore City	Poe Homes 800 W. Lexington Street Baltimore, MD 21201	Baltimore	\$1,300,000
NJ	Housing Authority of the City of Camden	Ablett Village, 307 Ablett Village Camden, NJ 08105	Camden	\$350,000
WI	Marquette University - Near West Side Partners	College Court 3334 W Highland Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53208	Milwaukee	\$1,300,000
TOTAL				\$4,850,000

[Read local summaries of the grants announced today.](#)

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HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and <http://espanol.hud.gov>. You can also connect with HUD on [social media](#) or sign up for news alerts on [HUD's Email List](#).

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FY2018 PLANNING GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS



Milwaukee, WI

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee:
Marquette University

Choice Neighborhoods Co-Grantee: Near West Side Partners

Target Assisted Housing Project:
College Court

Target Neighborhood: Near West Side

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

Key Partners:

Aurora Health Care | Business Improvement District #10 | City of Milwaukee | Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee | Harley-Davidson | LISC | Marquette Democracy Lab | MillerCoors | Milwaukee Police Department | Milwaukee Public Schools | Potawatomi Business Development Corporation | Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership / BIG STEP

Project Summary:

Just west of Milwaukee's downtown, the Near West Side was once an area with thriving commercial corridors, major employers, high-performing schools, seven hospitals, two universities, verdant parks, strong connections among residents, and a vibrant mix of amenities. However, over the past half century, the Near West Side has fallen into a continuous state of decline. Residents who worked in the neighborhood no longer chose to live there, and amenities, such as grocery stores and restaurants, faded. The neighborhood's housing stock similarly declined while crime increased.

Throughout these years of decline, Marquette University along with other major anchor institutions, such as MillerCoors, Aurora Health Care, Potawatomi Business Development Corporation and Harley-Davidson, remained steadfast anchors in the neighborhood, working individually to address the growing blight, crime, and neighborhood distress surrounding them. In 2014, these anchor institutions established Near West Side Partners (NWSP) in order to work in partnership with residents and other community stakeholders to develop a more coordinated approach to the neighborhood's issues. Among the anchors, Marquette University works with NWSP on a daily basis given its commitment to and large presence in the neighborhood.

This unique collaboration between Marquette University, NWSP, and residents has led to a variety of plans for improving the Near West Side. These plans have resulted in several transformational changes in the community, including the opening of two grocery stores and 18 businesses, improved neighborhood lighting, closure of a problematic tobacco shop, and most importantly a stronger, more authentic relationship between residents, businesses, and other stakeholders. To build upon this momentum, Marquette University and NWSP will use the \$1,300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action Grant to develop a comprehensive Transformation Plan that encompasses past plans with an eye towards improving housing opportunities for residents. Particularly, the team will create a roadmap to revitalize the distressed, 248-unit College Court public housing development and increase investment in the surrounding neighborhood. Marquette University and NWSP will work with residents and stakeholders to develop consensus on desired outcomes and create a shared, comprehensive vision for the Near West Side.