

# Louisville is finalist for Choice grant for Russell neighborhood

*HUD grant would boost transformation of historic neighborhood*

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (September 29, 2016)** – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban (HUD) announced today that Louisville is among five finalists for one of its Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Implementation Grants.

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority, Louisville Metro Government, and other partner organizations have been working hand-in-hand with neighborhood residents for over a year on its application, which could result in up to \$29.5 million in grant funds. This funding would be leveraged with other public and private funding sources to implement a comprehensive revitalization of the Russell neighborhood, including the Beecher Terrace public housing development.

Called the Vision Russell Choice Neighborhood Initiative, the goal of this extensive neighborhood planning effort is to develop and implement a community-driven and financially feasible transformation plan for the area between Market Street and Broadway and from Ninth to 32nd Street.

HUD anticipates announcing awards among the finalists in December 2016. As part of President Obama's overall drive to reinvest in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is

intended to transform distressed public and assisted housing into sustainable, mixed-income housing with access to community assets and services, and to support positive outcomes for families living in the development and in the community.

HUD plans to conduct a full-day site visit to gain a better understanding of Russell’s assets and challenges, and the strategies outlined within the neighborhood’s Transformation Plan.

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority received a \$425,000 grant in January 2015 to develop a comprehensive plan for Vision Russell. Then earlier this year, HUD awarded the authority an additional \$1 million Choice Neighborhoods “Action Activities” Grant to be used on physical improvements to the area, as the city awaits word on the larger implementation grant.

“Being a finalist is further recognition of the work that Louisville Metro and the residents of Russell have been doing to reimagine this historic neighborhood,” Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said. “I’m especially happy today for the people who live and work in Russell, because this news is confirmation that together, we are moving in the right direction to create a neighborhood that is safer, cleaner, healthier — and economically vibrant.”

U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth said, “This effort isn’t just about revitalizing housing in Louisville, it’s about transforming the lives of Louisvillians. That means making sound investments in better infrastructure, better schools, and safer neighborhoods where residents can find success for themselves and their families.

“That’s what this initiative is all about, and I can’t think of a more deserving place for this effort to continue than right here in Louisville. I’d like to congratulate Mayor Fischer and his staff, everyone at the Louisville Metro Housing Authority, and residents for their commitment to improving lives in our city and investing in the transformation of the Russell neighborhood. I look forward to continuing to work together to see this project over the finish line.”

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