



Russell Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant



The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative:

The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is a HUD-funded grant program begun in 2010 that replaces the HOPE VI program. There are two types of Choice Neighborhoods grants:

- 1) Planning
- 2) Implementation

On January 16, 2015 the Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) was awarded a \$425,000 planning grant for the Russell Neighborhood. Louisville Metro Government is also contributing more than \$500,000 to the planning process. LMHA, Louisville Metro and its Choice Neighborhood partners have two years (until January 16, 2017) to complete a Transformation Plan for Russell and to submit the completed plan to HUD.

Planning Grant Goals:

The goals of the Choice Neighborhood planning grant are to develop a community-endorsed, implementable, and financially feasible Transformation Plan to:

- Transform Russell into a neighborhood of opportunity and choice
- Revitalize Beecher Terrace as part of an overall plan for improving the Russell Neighborhood
- Attract investments to the Russell Neighborhood to improve quality of life for all residents

Choice Neighborhood Planning grant funds **CANNOT** be used for demolition, relocation or replacement housing.

LMHA has hired EJP Consulting Group to serve as the Planning Coordinator for the planning process. EJP has partnered with the firm of Goody Clancy to provide architectural and master planning services.

The Transformation Plan will contain four broad components:

People: Plans to improve community and supportive services that are delivered to youth and their families.

Education: Plans to improve children's ability to succeed in school and to find occupations where they will thrive financially.

Housing: Plans to transform distressed public and assisted housing and create high-quality, energy-efficient, mixed-income housing that responds to the needs of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood: Plans to create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in Russell that will offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activities, that are important to families' choices about their community.

Russell Choice Neighborhoods Planning Partners:

There are a number of organizations and community members who have already signed on to provide their input during the planning process. These partners include:

- Russell community members
- Beecher Terrace residents
- Schools
- Early childhood education providers
- Health care centers
- Churches
- Parks and recreational facilities
- Neighborhood businesses
- Key anchor institutions in the neighborhood
- Housing providers
- Small business and homeownership assistance providers
- More than 20 Louisville Metro Government departments
- Other groups, agencies and residents from the larger Louisville community

Task force groups have been formed to focus on each of the four Transformation Plan components – People, Education, Housing and Neighborhood. To learn more about or participate in in one or more of these task forces call 502.569.4372 – the Choice Neighborhood Information line – and leave a message with your phone number and/or your email address.

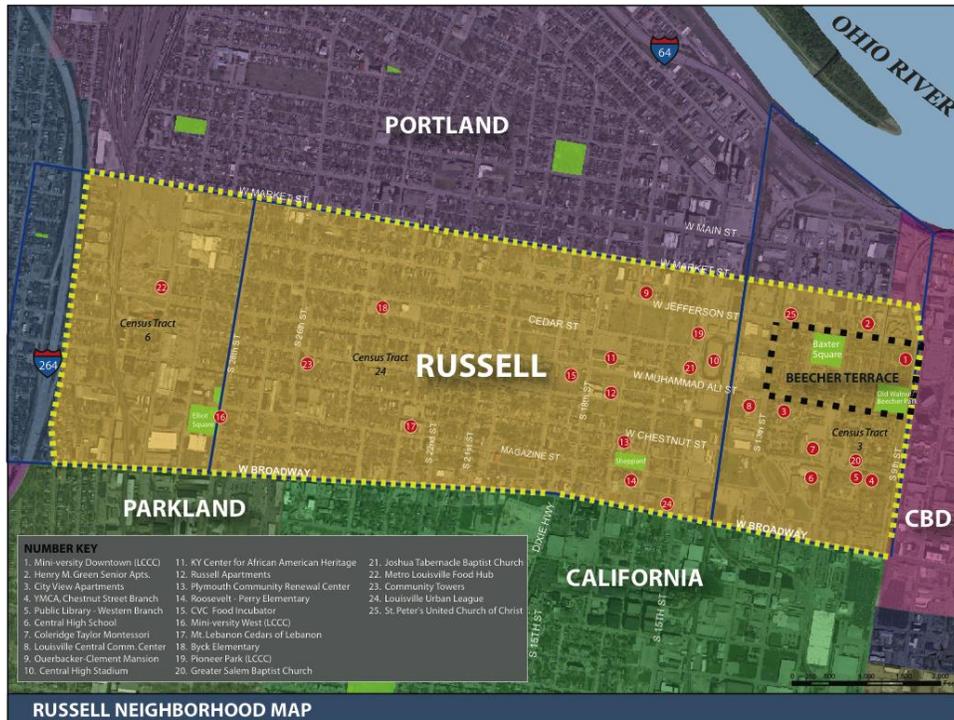
Specific Choice Neighborhood planning grant activities and efforts include:

- Conducting a needs assessment with Beecher Terrace households and a survey of neighborhood residents
- Holding task force and community meetings, design workshops, and special focus groups
- Offering training sessions where community members can learn more about the planning process and to build capacity among residents and stakeholders
- Organizing youth engagement activities
- Working with Roosevelt-Perry Elementary School to improve student outcomes
- Planning to make Beecher Terrace a sustainable, mixed-income community
- Working with other housing providers in the neighborhood to improve their properties
- Strengthening the Russell Neighborhood People's Farmers Market
- Conducting a market assessment of the Russell Neighborhood
- Completing environmental assessments

Russell Neighborhood Boundaries:

The Russell Neighborhood, which will be the focus of the Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan, is defined by the following boundaries:

North: Market Street
South: Broadway
East: 9th Street (Roy Wilkins Avenue)
West: I-264 (West side of 32nd Street)



The Russell Neighborhood:

- Population - 10,753
- 90% African American versus 21% city-wide
- 62% of residents live in poverty
- High concentrations of subsidized rental housing
- 23% homeowners versus 63% city-wide
- Long-term vacancy rate of 19%
- Violent crime rate over five times the city-wide rate
- Three of the neighborhood's four schools have Title I status

The Beecher Terrace Public Housing Development:

The severely distressed Beecher Terrace public housing development was built in 1939. The site includes a total of 768 apartments in the following bedroom configuration:

- 363 one-bedroom apartments
- 246 two-bedroom apartments
- 159 three-bedroom apartments

Any future redevelopment of the Beecher Terrace site would require one-for-one replacement of any units demolished. Displaced residents would be allowed to return either on-site or to off-site replacement housing if they were lease-compliant at the time of departure from the original site and remained lease-compliant during the relocation period. Residents would not have to meet any work/income requirements in order to return, and returning residents would have a wait list preference for both on-site and off-site replacement units.