

# Threshold Requirements for Implementation Grant Choice Neighborhoods Initiative – Railyards – River District

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## Education Requirements

Ensure that neighborhood residents between the ages of 0-18 will have access to high-quality early learning programs, schools, and education programs that will improve outcome of public housing residents

- **Early Learning**
  - Family Engagement Component
  - Intensive Community outreach and enrollment
  - Arrangements for appropriate transportation
  - Post revitalization goal of enrolling at least 65% of families with children 0-5
  - Emphasize partnerships and measurable and trackable outcomes
- **Schools**
  - Encouraged to consider 1 of 4 Department of Education’s Title School Improvement Grant
  - Commit to enrolling, tracking and supporting attendance
  - Commit to post revitalization goal of enrolling 65% of families with school age children

## Supportive Service Requirements

Key supportive Services programs and activities must be available to residents 30 days of grant award and last for the life of the grant

- **Resident Needs Assessment and Results – basis for People Strategy**
  - Opportunity for written and oral survey participation
  - At least 51% response rate
  - Include neighborhood level data
- **Supportive Services Strategy**
  - Leverage and build upon high quality services
  - Positive Youth Development
  - Service Coordination and Case Management
- **Supportive Services Sustainability by creating an endowment**
- **Relocation and Re-occupancy strategy that all residents benefit**
- **Economic Opportunities of Low and very low income persons**
  - Employment, training, contracting opportunities

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## Nighborhood Requirements

Seeking well-defined, sound, results-oriented plan that addresses patterns of disinvestment, existing neighborhood assets and patterns of racial and poverty concentration

- Market Study
- Identify parcels of land that will be used for commercial, recreational, community, educational or other uses (evidence of site control)
- Alignment with Existing Efforts
- Consistency with Public Housing Plan and Consolidated Plan
- Regional Sustainability Plan – consistent with a regional sustainability plan adopted by a consortium of local jurisdiction
- Access to Amenities
  - Fresh Food Retail establishment within one mile of housing
  - 5 or more existing amenities of community serving retail, services, and civic and community with at least 1 amenity from each grouping within 1 mile of housing
  - Anchor Institution Engagement – place based entities that have regional significance and are permanently rooted, economic drivers that generate jobs, local business opportunities and contribute in significant ways to human, social and cultural capital.
- Transit-Served Location
  - At least 50% of housing units within ¼ mile of bus stops, or ½ mile of rapid transit stop and transit service meets minimum daily service standards
- Achieve at least the Certified level of the LEED-ND rating system
- Public Safety community based strategy

## Housing Requirements

Specific and technical requirements regarding the development, replacement and sustainability of the housing units will be addressed by the Housing Task Force and Housing Developer lead.

In addition to the threshold requirements, the Housing Task Force has adopted the following guiding principles:

- ❖ Develop within a mixed income community
- ❖ Ensure affordable housing units off site
- ❖ Maintain Housing Authority interest and/or control
- ❖ Develop Overall Replacement Strategy for existing site
- ❖ Ensure financial sustainability for the Housing Authority and long term preservation of affordable units
- ❖ Promote sustainability and energy efficiency

**River District-Railyards Choice Neighborhoods Initiative**  
**Education and Workforce Development Task Force**  
**August 22, 2012**

**Strategy Development – Round 1**

1. Review summary of resident needs survey results and school data – *10 minutes*
2. Develop a draft vision statement for the Education / Workforce Development Strategy – *10 minutes*
  - a. How would you describe the challenges residents face today?
  - b. How would you describe the opportunities residents will have ten years from now after implementation of the plan is complete?
3. Identify objectives and strategies within each of the following categorical groupings– *10 minutes per objective*

- Early Childhood Education
- Schools
- Adult / Continuing Education

Note: Some objectives and strategies are within the purview of the neighborhood and/or people task force and will help them with identifying their strategies as they mesh with the education/workforce development needs

- a. Identify the need that you are addressing with the strategy – what is the baseline number/percentage
- b. Identify the outcome you are trying to achieve with the strategy – number/percentage
- c. Describe the service/strategy
- d. Identify resources/providers already offering this service where possible, or potential partners, or if there is a gap and capacity need to be created

Questions to think about:

1. What are the barriers/challenges to achieving the stated objective?
2. What can Choice Neighborhoods do to help overcome those barriers/challenges?

HUD Priority Outcomes

1. Children enter kindergarten ready to learn – number and percentage of children who are assessed as developmentally ready at the beginning of the school year
2. Children are proficient in core academic subjects – number and percentage of students at or above grade level according to state mathematics and English Language Arts assessments in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
3. Youth graduate from high school college- and career-ready – number and percentage of youth who graduate from high school
4. Households are economically stable and self-sufficient
  - a. Number and percentage of working-age adults meeting proficient literacy standards
  - b. Number and percentage of working-age adults working at least 30 hours per week
  - c. Average earned income of HUD-assisted households (excluding those who cannot work due to being elderly or disabled)



## River District – Railyards Education/Workforce Development Vision Worksheet

- How would you describe the challenges residents face today?

The greatest challenges faced by the residents are isolationism and poverty. This area appears to be geographical desert with access to little or no services--including educational services. These residents are on a metaphorical island with little chance to escape.

The top three challenges/barriers are:

- Lack of Educational Opportunities-- Current education opportunities are limited, which appears to be generational and not a new occurs.
  - Little, if no, Employment opportunities—undoubtedly related to educational opportunities. The introduction of any types of training still requires access to stable educational opportunities to build foundational skill for successful vocational training.
  - Transportation— is the key to educational/vocational training and employment opportunities.
- How would you describe the opportunities residents will have ten years from now after implementation of the plan is complete?

If the residents are afforded the opportunity to remain in the area after the implementation, their quality of life should improve greatly. With the introduction of new housing developments along other plans for this area opportunity to better education, jobs, services, and transportation will be available. With the influx of new residents and services, the quality of life for the current residents should improve significantly.

