

## **THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS IMPLEMENTATION GRANT OVERVIEW**

The Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant (“CNIG”) is a grant funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support communities that have undergone a comprehensive local planning process and created a Neighborhood Transformation Plan (“NTP”) to revitalize a severely distressed public housing site and to redevelop the surrounding neighborhood(s). In November 2014, HUD issued a request for applications under the FY2014 CNIG program, with grant awards up to \$30M. The Atlanta Housing Authority (“AHA”) applied as the Lead Applicant with the City of Atlanta (“COA”) as the Co-Applicant. Atlanta received a \$30M grant on September 28, 2015. The focus area of the CNIG is the revitalization of the former University Homes public housing complex and the surrounding neighborhoods of Ashview Heights, the Atlanta University Center Neighborhood and Vine City, collectively known as the University Choice Neighborhood (“UCN”). The \$30M in grant funding will leverage \$395M in other public, private and philanthropic commitments from AHA, the COA, Invest Atlanta and other public and private stakeholder organizations.

## **PREVIOUS MICROGRANTS AWARDED**

The University Choice Neighborhood (now known as Choice Atlanta) Microgrant Program launched in the summer of 2012 under the 2010 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant received by AHA to develop the NTP. This initial microgrant program provided funding to nine (9) microgrant projects with awards between \$500.00 - \$3,000.00 to support human development and education activities in the UCN. A second round of funding was approved in 2013 that awarded 11 Microgrants in the amounts ranging \$500.00 - \$3,000.00 and expanding the categories to the items listed below. Microgrant 3.0 launched in October 2016 awarded 11 recipients in amounts ranging from \$2,500.00- \$5,000.00 in funding. Since its inception, AHA has awarded 31 recipients \$135,000.00 in microgrants.

## **MICROGRANT PROGRAM BOUNDARIES**

A map is included in this document illustrating the UCN area bounded by the following streets: (North) Joseph E. Boone Blvd; (East) Northside Drive; (South) Interstate 20; (West) portion of the Atlanta Beltline to Martin Luther King, across to Joseph E. Lowery, and up Lowery to Boone Blvd.

## **MICROGRANT 4.0 PROGRAM**

The UCN Microgrant 4.0 program will continue the mission to build upon community efforts to improve the physical, social, and economic outcomes of the UCN area, consistent with the NTP and the CNIG, and specifically will support organizational capacity building/leadership development, public safety, health, history/heritage, and a food ecosystem, which supports urban farming/community garden activities. This year, in addition to the focus on innovation, long-term sustainability, and impact on former University Homes residents (FUH), there will be additional focus on Section 3 applicants and specific activities that support our food ecosystem in the UCN.

### **1. Eligible Applicant Requirements:**

Businesses, non-profit organizations or civic groups (“the Applicant”) are eligible to apply. While individuals are not eligible Applicants, AHA strongly encourages interested individuals to collaborate with a sponsoring Applicant organization with demonstrated similar

alignment. Members of the Applicant organization applying for Category 1 funds **must** live within the boundaries of the UCN area. Applicants for the remaining funding categories do not have to be physically located within the UCN geography, but must demonstrate history of working in the UCN and the project **must** benefit the former UH residents and/or UCN residents. All project activities **must** be located within the UCN boundaries.

UCN residents are residents in a household with an address in the Vine City, Ashview Heights or Atlanta University Center neighborhoods (“UCN address”). UCN businesses must have a UCN address or serve UCN residents. The FUH residents are those household residents who resided in University Homes at the time of relocation prior to the demolition of the project. The majority of the former residents currently reside throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area.

Each Applicant **must** first register as an AHA vendor by visiting AHA’s website at [www.atlantahousing.org](http://www.atlantahousing.org); click on the “Doing Business” link on the right; scroll down towards the bottom of the page and either “Register” (new grantees) or “Update” (prior grantees) as an AHA vendor. The vendor approval process may take several days so we strongly suggest that you apply for your vendor number several days prior to application submittal. The AHA Vendor Number **must** be on the Microgrant Application for consideration. If you are applying for Section 3 bonus points, you **must** complete the AHA Section 3 Certification Form and be registered as a Section 3 business with AHA when you complete/update your vendor information.

**This program may be unique to AHA, and other PHA’s may not have access to Choice Neighborhood funding or the bandwidth to fund and manage a microgrant program.**