

# Early Successes and Challenges in Choice Neighborhoods

April 10, 2015

Leah Hendey
Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference

### **Goals of Choice Neighborhoods** (FY 2010-11)

Overarching goal: Transform neighborhoods of poverty into viable mixed-income neighborhoods with access to economic opportunities

### **Housing Goal**

 Transform distressed public and assisted housing into energy-efficient, mixed-income housing that is physically and financially viable over the long term.

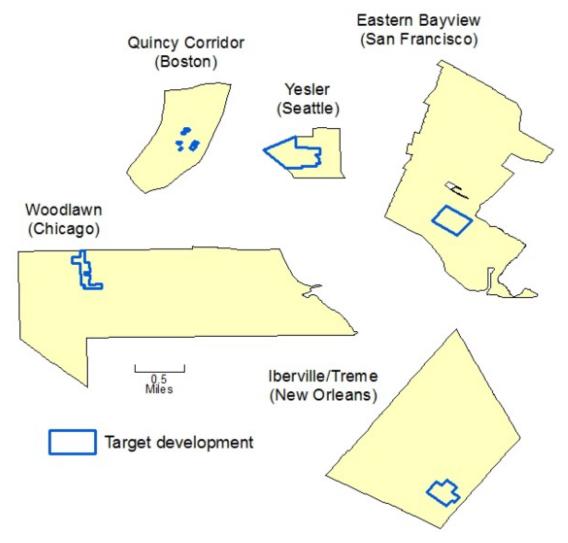
### People Goal

 Support positive outcomes for families who live in the target development and the surrounding neighborhood, particularly outcomes related to residents' health, safety, employment, and education.

### Neighborhoods Goal

 Transform neighborhoods of poverty into viable, mixed-income neighborhoods with access to well-functioning services, effective schools and educational programs, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs.

## A wide assortment of neighborhood shapes and sizes—but all high-poverty and mostly high-crime



## The study: A baseline look at first five implementation neighborhoods

in partnership with MDRC

#### **Data collection**

- Grantee documents
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Physical condition surveys
- Secondary data
- Household survey, with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Potential future evaluation of longterm progress and impact

### Implementation evaluation

- Plans for
  - Rebuilding housing
  - Supporting residents
  - Transforming neighborhoods
- Activities, 9/2011-9/2013
  - In each domain
  - Overall coordination
  - Federal level
- Interim report issued by HUD 9/2013
- Final report submitted to HUD 1/20/2015

### Housing underway by 9/2013

Target Development	Demolition	Construction	Units Reoccupied
Woodledge/Morrant Bay (Boston)			0
Grove Parc (Chicago)	•	•	197
<b>Iberville</b> (New Orleans)	•	0	0
Alice Griffith (San Francisco)	0	0	0
Yesler Terrace (Seattle)		0	0





### **Ambitious off-site housing more challenging**

### Site control

 New Orleans grantee demonstrated site control but lost it on the critical Eastern Adjacent property

### Market conditions

- Tremé: Hot market contributed to increase in prices, bidding wars over properties, and loss of the Eastern Adjacent option
- Woodlawn: Foreclosures and limited demand for owner-occupied housing require recalibration of off-site plan

### **NIMBY**

 Some resident opposition in both Tremé and Woodlawn to affordable housing (but support too, in Tremé)

# HOPE VI experience provided advantages for resident supports (New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle)

Understanding of how to design and lead a team

 Strong, experienced people leads with good connections to the grantee and housing leads

Expertise in case management for assisted residents

Ability and commitment to immediate start-up of case management

Clear priorities for service coordination and connection

 Knowledge of tenants and early case management heightened teams' ability to enroll tenants with services

Established mechanisms for tenant engagement

### Case management lagged in HUD-assisted sites

### Supportive services: Critical for established residents

- "Hard to House" and other vulnerable households need additional supports before, during, and after relocation
- Commencement of relocation before case management is initiated may have negative consequences
- Grant agreement specifies that case management must be initiated within first 30 days of award

### Priority not fully met in the first round of grantees

 HUD-assisted sites began relocation before case management initiated (one year to 18 months)

### **Progress in Critical Community Improvements (CCIs)**

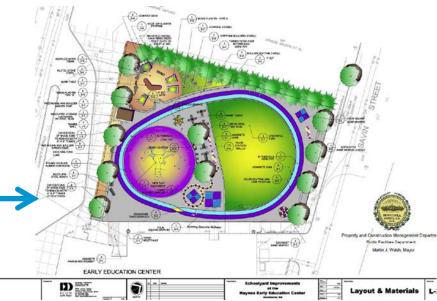
### Yesler (Seattle)

- 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. South Hill Climb
- Community garden at existing Horiuchi park
- "Green Street"
- Pedestrian Connections

### **Quincy Corridor (Boston)**

- Pearl Meats renovation for food production & small business incubator
- Wicked Free WiFi
- Playground improvements





### Early initiatives aim to address violent crime

- Woodlawn: New Woodlawn Public Safety Alliance
  - Safe Passages, Incident Response Plan, and increased police patrols
- Quincy Corridor: Project RIGHT
  - Trauma coordinator for the Grove Hall Violence Intervention Program
- Eastern Bayview: Man-Up Safety and Green Streets initiatives

### **Key Findings on Coordination**

- 1. Mayoral or political leadership is critical
  - Mayors and city councils bolstered internal and external coordination
- 2. Active, dedicated manager necessary for coordination
  - Previous collaboration among grantee partners very helpful
- 3. External coordination strongest with housing
  - Early stages: Opportunities for learning in other domains

### **Emergent signs of new leverage**

Neighborhood	Description of Leverage	Domain*	Amount
Quincy Corridor	Pearl Meats community business incubator	N	~\$14.5M
Woodlawn	Grant to acquire foreclosed/abandoned property from the state of Illinois	N, H	\$750K
Iberville/ Tremé	Early childhood services committed to the Iberville after redevelopment	Р	In-kind
Eastern Bayview	Infill infrastructure grant	N, H	\$5.6M
	Acceleration of bus rapid transit line to Alice Griffith	N	NA
Yesler	Funding for economic development study	N	\$60K
	Summer youth employment grant	N	\$70K

<sup>\*</sup>H: Housing; P: People; N: Neighborhood

### **Near-Term Issues and Opportunities**

- Most serious stress point: Household support before, during, and after relocation
- More information needed: Attrition from housing assistance
- Successive phases of housing offer opportunities for learning and improvement in unit design, site design, and program innovation
- Completed CCIs offer opportunities to learn more about creating synergy among housing, neighborhood, and people domains
- Promising collaboration on Public Safety Enhancement (PSE)
   Grants

### **Medium to Long Term Issues and Opportunities**

- In the target developments: Establishing management practices that build trust and understanding among residents
- In the neighborhoods
  - Bringing down violent crime through PSE measures and other work
  - Maximizing leverage
- In the cities: Promoting system change in interagency functioning
- Federal level: Continued interagency learning and coordination

### Thank you!

Ihendey@urban.org