



News from POAH

Preservation of Affordable Housing

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Boston Affordable Housing Nonprofit Is a Finalist for HUD Grant in Major Chicago Redevelopment *Choice Neighborhoods is centerpiece of Obama Administration's interagency initiative, City of Boston also a finalist*

BOSTON— Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc. is one of six finalists to compete for approximately \$61 million in U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grants to advance its \$140 million mixed use development already underway on the south side of Chicago. The grant list was released last Friday at the White House by HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan who said the program will “tackle intergenerational poverty”. Up to 4 grantees will split the total award, which includes the City of Boston. POAH is the only nonprofit primary applicant.

HUD's new *Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CN)* promotes comprehensive transformation of distressed areas of concentrated poverty into viable and sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods by linking housing improvements with a wider variety of public services including schools, public transit and employment opportunities. According to HUD, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is a centerpiece of the Obama Administration's interagency Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative – a collaboration between the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Education, Justice, Treasury and Health and Human Services “to support the ability of local leaders from the public and private sectors and attract the private investment needed to transform distressed neighborhoods into sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with affordable housing, safe streets and good schools.”

POAH has partnered with the City of Chicago, the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community, the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute, the Jane Adams Hull House Association and the Woodlawn New Communities Program to redevelop 504 blighted Section 8 units into a total of 965 mixed income units plus retail space and social service delivery sites.

Congress approved the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative with the passage of HUD's FY 2010 budget, allowing HUD to use \$65 million in funding to provide competitive grants to assist in the transformation, rehabilitation and preservation of public housing and privately owned HUD-assisted housing. "CN builds on the successes and lessons of HUD's HOPE VI program and widened the traditional pool of eligible applicants by allowing, in addition to public housing authorities, local governments, nonprofit organizations and for-profit developers (who apply jointly with a public entity) to apply," according to HUD.

Under POAH's proposal, James Adams Hull House Association (Hull House) will link residents with skill-building programs and employment opportunities, mental health and substance abuse clinical services and literacy programs. It will offer case management and service coordination to neighborhood residents and work closely with the University of Chicago's Urban Institute (UEI) and its partner the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community (WCPC). The groups will collaborate to connect neighborhood residents to educational programs such as early-childhood and college readiness programs, teacher training and innovative classroom technology and extended-day programs. They will help link residents to the family and social supports offered by Hull House such as anti-gang violence efforts and will work for transit improvements to the site which is located at the terminus of the CTA's Green Line.

Carrying forward the recommendations of a comprehensive community planning process convened by Woodlawn New Communities Program, POAH and its partners will develop other vital neighborhood services including grocery and retail space, a youth center and a community resource center.

The six implementation grant finalists are POAH plus the city of Boston; Housing Authority of New Orleans; Housing Authority of the City of Seattle; Housing Authority of the City of Tampa, Fla.; McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc., for a project in San Francisco.

About POAH: Preservation of Affordable Housing, based in Boston, is a mission-driven, entrepreneurial nonprofit committed to preserving affordable housing resources throughout the United States. POAH acquires, preserves and stewards these resources with creative financial restructurings, physical rehabilitation or redevelopment and long-term management. POAH owns more than 6,600 affordable apartments in nine states and the District of Columbia, serving the working poor, families, individuals, and seniors. Its founder, president and CEO is Amy Anthony, who served as Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities and Development, a \$600 million Cabinet-level state agency in the Dukakis administration. Info at www.poah.org