

**Memorandum  
Community Economic Development Department**



**To:** Thomas Thomas, City Manager  
**Subject:** HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant  
**Date:** August 11, 2014

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CED staff is requesting Council approval to partner with the Rock Island Housing Authority (RIHA) to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development for a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants (CN) where up to \$500,000 may be awarded to create a plan to transform the West End neighborhood and Lincoln Homes, a distressed public housing project.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the lead applicant (RIHA) and co-applicant (City) demonstrating a commitment to work collaboratively to develop a Transformation Plan is a requirement of the grant application. A second requirement is a demonstration of local government support. Both the draft MOU and draft Resolution have been revised as directed by the City Council at the July 28, 2014 meeting—references to HUD Section 221(d)(3) and HUD Section 236 properties has been removed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

CED staff recommends approval of the enclosed Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Rock Island Housing Authority to apply for a 2014 HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant.

CED staff further recommends adoption of the enclosed Resolution identifying City support of the collaboration with the Rock Island Housing Authority in submitting an application for a 2014 HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant.

**Submitted by:** Jeff Eder, CED Director / Assistant City Manager  
Ben Griffith, Planning & Redevelopment Administrator  
Brandy Howe, Urban Planner II

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**Approved by:** Thomas Thomas, City Manager

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR  
CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE PLANNING GRANT  
WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD**

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014, by and between the ROCK ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY, hereinafter referred to as RIHA, and the CITY OF ROCK ISLAND, hereinafter referred to as the City, to collaborate and submit an application to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for funding through the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is designed to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public housing or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 2014, HUD issued the Notice of Funding Availability for Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants for Fiscal Year 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, after careful review of the planning grant requirements, RIHA and the City determined that the West End Neighborhood and Lincoln Homes, an RIHA Public Housing Property, meets the eligibility criteria for a successful grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, RIHA and the City agreed to submit an application to HUD for a Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant with RIHA serving as the Lead Applicant and the City serving as the Co-Applicant for the purposes of the grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, if awarded, the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will provide up to \$500,000 toward the development of a Transformation Plan which will become the guiding document for the revitalization of the public and/or assisted housing units identified within the grant, while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and positive outcomes for families and the community as a whole.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. PURPOSE**

The Rock Island Housing Authority and the City of Rock Island shall cooperate for the purposes of applying for FY 2014 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant funds and undertaking or assisting in undertaking eligible activities identified in the application for Planning Grant funds, including the development of a comprehensive neighborhood Transformation Plan for Lincoln Homes, as well as the surrounding West End Neighborhood planning area which includes the Old Town Chicago, Longview, and Douglas Park Neighborhoods (see attached map).

**2. SCOPE OF WORK**

The Rock Island Housing Authority shall serve as the Lead Applicant and the City of Rock Island shall serve as the Co-Applicant for the purposes of the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant application.

**3. ROCK ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITY**

In its role of Lead Applicant, RIHA shall have the overall responsibility under the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant and in the view of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to:

- (a) Ensure that the planning project is carried out in compliance with all Planning Grant requirements (grant agreement) and in substantial compliance with the information provided in the Planning Grant application;
- (b) Ensure adequate performance under project agreements and procurement contracts;
- (c) Assume responsibility for environmental review, decision-making, and action required for the proposed projects outlined in the grant agreement; and
- (d) Submit all pertinent documents and reports to HUD as required for participation in the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant Program.

**4. CITY OF ROCK ISLAND RESPONSIBILITY**

In its role as Co-Applicant, the City of Rock Island shall have the overall responsibility to oversee all aspects of the planning process. In this role, the City of Rock Island will:

- (a) Manage the Planning Coordinator in the development of the West End Neighborhood Transformation Plan.
- (b) Provide support and planning services to the Planning Coordinator in the development of the Transformation Plan.

**5. MODIFICATION**

No waiver, alteration, modification, or termination of this MOU shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the authorized parties hereof.

**6. TERMINATION**

This agreement shall terminate upon completion of all obligations of the parties, or after the 24 month grant period of the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, or in the event that the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant is not awarded to RIHA/City of Rock Island, whichever comes first.

**ROCK ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Anderson  
Executive Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Thomas  
City Manager



**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_-2014**

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 2014, HUD issued the Notice of Funding Availability for Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants for Fiscal Year 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative is designed to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public housing or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation; and

**WHEREAS**, after careful review of the planning grant requirements, the City determined that a collaborative partnership with the Rock Island Housing Authority (RIHA) would be the most effective approach in developing an application for a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant with the RIHA serving as the Lead Applicant and the City serving as co-applicant for the purposes of the application; and

**WHEREAS**, after careful review of the planning grant requirements, RIHA and the City determined that the West End Neighborhood consisting of Douglas Park, Longview, and Old Town Chicago and Lincoln Homes, an RIHA Public Housing Property, meet the eligibility criteria for a successful grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, if awarded, the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will provide up to \$500,000 toward the development of a Transformation Plan which will become the guiding document for the revitalization of the public and/or assisted housing units identified within the grant, while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and positive outcomes for families and the community as a whole.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Rock Island and the Rock Island Housing Authority shall cooperate for the purposes of applying for FY 2014 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant funds and undertaking or assisting in undertaking eligible activities identified in the application for Planning Grant funds, including the development of a comprehensive neighborhood Transformation Plan for Lincoln Homes, as well as the surrounding West End Neighborhood planning area which includes the Old Town Chicago, Longview, and Douglas Park Neighborhoods (see attached map).

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis E. Pauley, Mayor  
City of Rock Island, Illinois

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Aleisha Patchin, City Clerk  
City of Rock Island, Illinois

