

## CN OVERVIEW

In 2010 the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) was awarded a Choice Neighborhoods (CN) Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Using the CN Grant funds, AHA and its master development partner, Integral, worked collaboratively with the City of Atlanta and a number of strategic and invested community partners, residents and stakeholders. The result of this collaboration was a comprehensive Neighborhood Transformation Plan (NT Plan) for the area of west Atlanta where six Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are located adjacent to a former distressed public housing site, University Homes, now demolished and undergoing revitalization. The NT Plan offers a shared vision and blueprint to create a vibrant and thriving college town community built on the historical relationship between the HBCUs and the surrounding neighborhood (see attached NT Plan strategies). The partnering HBCUs include Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College which are referred to as the Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC).

## CN GEOGRAPHY

Three residential areas are located in the CN area (Atlanta University Center, Ashview Heights and Vine City). A map illustrating the CN area (see attached) is bounded by the following streets: (North) Joseph E. Boone; (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.

## CN MICRO GRANT

As part of a CN Planning grant awarded to AHA, the Atlanta CN Micro Grant Program was established to ignite or build upon community efforts to improve the physical, social, or economic environs of the CN area consistent with the NT Plan. The CN Micro Grant was initially launched in the summer of 2012 with a donation from the Annie E. Casey Foundation that helped to underwrite nine micro-grant projects that primarily supported human development and education activities in the CN area.

For this round of funding, AHA is using CN funds to award micro-grants that support organizational capacity building/business development, public safety, health, history/heritage, and food security/urban agriculture activities as follows:

- **Category 1 - Organization Capacity Building:** Funds for up to two organization members to participate in a local, established training and/or technical assistance program that supports business development or organization capacity building. Applicant will need to identify program of interest and micro grant funds will only cover the payment for classes (no travel or per diem costs). Examples of established programs include the Georgia Center for Nonprofits' Nonprofit University ([www.gcn.org/nonprofit-university](http://www.gcn.org/nonprofit-university)), Georgia Small Business Development Center ([www.georgiasbdc.org](http://www.georgiasbdc.org)), Atlanta University Center Consortium's CommUniversity ([www.aucenter.edu](http://www.aucenter.edu)), or nonprofit/business development programs or certifications through an institution of higher education.

- **Category 2 – Public Safety:** Projects that will lead to a decrease crime and criminal activity in the CN area.
- **Category 3 – Food Security/Urban Farming:** Projects to improve the availability of healthy food and produce for area residents
- **Category 4 - History/Heritage:** Projects to sustain, preserve, and promote the history/heritage of the area
- **Category 5 – Public Health:** Projects that will help participants obtain health insurance or connect to a medical home.

Applicants can only apply for one category of funding, and grant proposals must describe how the selected category supports the organization’s mission, goals and sustainability efforts, and how the project will lead to sustainable change in the CN area. Additionally, applicants requesting funding under Categories 2 – 4 must conduct a project or activity that produces a visible improvement.

## 1. Eligible Applicants

Businesses, non-profit organizations or civic groups are eligible to apply. While individuals are not eligible applicants, we strongly encourage interested individuals to partner with a sponsoring organization. Applicants applying for Category 1 funds **must** be located within the boundaries of the CN area. Applicants for the remaining funding categories do not have to be physically located within the CN geography, but the project **must** benefit the CN area and its residents.

Preference will be given to applicants that are currently working and having a positive impact in the CN area, and/or who demonstrate collaboration with one or more organizations in addressing a need that aligns with one of the five funding categories described above.

The applicant must provide evidence of its organizational status such as bylaws, articles of incorporation, business license, non-profit status, annual renewal documents, etc., to show the applicant’s operating status is current and in force and effect. All documents submitted are subject to review and approval.

## 2. Prior Micro Grant Awardees

Organizations that were awarded 2012 CN Micro Grant funds are eligible to apply for any Category under this round; however, it cannot be for an activity or project previously funded.

Prior awardees will also have to describe in their proposal how the prior project led to sustainable change.



## Atlanta Choice Neighborhoods 2013 Micro Grant Program Guidelines

### 3. Project Area

See the attached CN map for the geographical boundaries that will determine applicant and/or project eligibility.

### 4. Grant Amount

The maximum grant request is \$3,000. Grant awards will range between \$500 and \$3,000 based on the number and quality of proposals received. Administrative personnel costs (salaries) are allowed up to 10 percent of the grant request.

### 5. Matching Funds

No matching funds are required.

### 6. Ineligible Projects/Activities

Micro Grants will not be provided for the following:

- Funds to support an endowment
- Fundraising Events
- Capital Campaign Contributions
- Debt or expenses incurred prior to the date of the grant submission deadline
- General Operating Expenses such as rent, utility payments, etc.
- Projects that don't demonstrate a direct linkage or benefit to CN area or residents

### 7. Application Deadline

**The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on February 7, 2014 at the AHA headquarters.** Please submit the original application and two copies (paperclip the copies) to:

Trish O'Connell  
Vice President of Real Estate Development  
Atlanta Housing Authority  
230 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue, Atlanta Georgia 30303

Applications can be hand delivered or mailed, but must be received by the application deadline. Please ensure if you are mailing applications that you allow ample time for the application to be received by the application deadline. Applications received after the deadline date and time will not be considered for funding. Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

Please note, you must complete and submit the 2013 CN Micro Grant Program application which can be obtained from the CN website – [www.cnatlanta.org](http://www.cnatlanta.org).

#### 8. Grant Award/Completion Dates

Awards are slated to be made in March 2014 by an Evaluation Committee that will include representatives from AHA, stakeholders and the community. The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to approve any and all requests for funds. Awardees will be notified by a representative of AHA and **90%** of the grant funds will be distributed upon award. **10%** of the grant award will be retained until AHA receives and accepts the final report of the completed project.

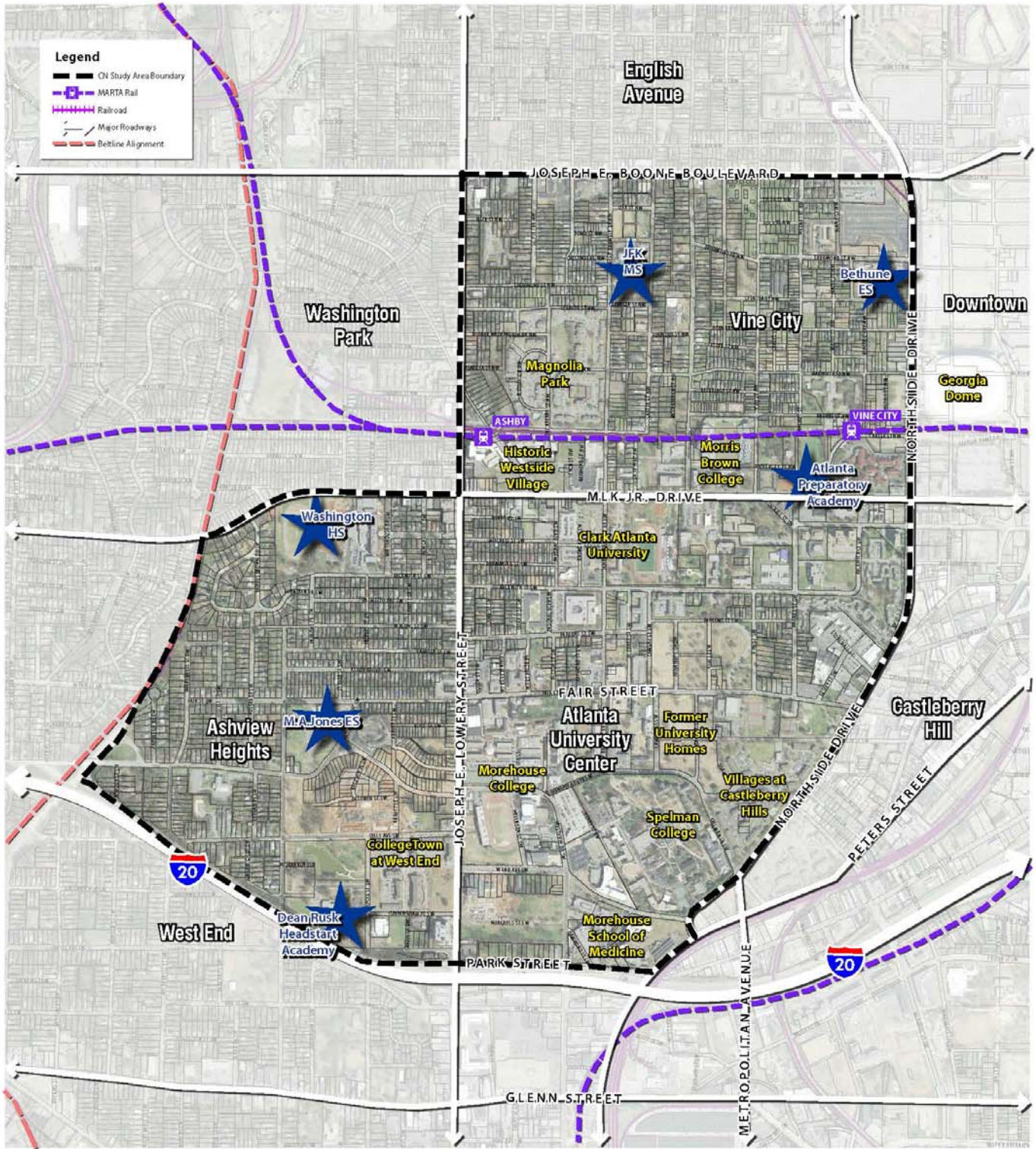
With the exception of Category 1 awardees, all awardees must complete their projects by June 30, 2014, and submit their final reports to AHA by July 31, 2014. Due to scheduling of training/technical assistance associated with Category 1 funding, AHA will work with these awardees on acceptable completion and close-out documentation.

#### Additional Information

- AHA conducted two CN Micro Grant informational sessions at AHA's headquarters on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and Monday, December 16, 2013. Please check the CN website at [www.cnatlanta.org](http://www.cnatlanta.org) for updates on the CN Micro Grant program. You can contact Gwen Weddington at 404-685-4376 or Melinda Eubank at 404-817-7228 ([melinda.eubank@atlantahousing.org](mailto:melinda.eubank@atlantahousing.org)) if you have questions.
- Only one application per organization will be accepted.
- Please be sure to complete the CN Micro Grant application and ensure your application responds to the requested information. The absence of a completed application and requested information may eliminate your application from funding consideration.

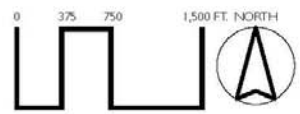


# CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS FOCUS AREA



## CONTEXT MAP Choice Neighborhoods Area

Atlanta Housing Authority



DATE: November 10, 2011 Prepared by: Urban Collage

The following represents a summary of the CN Implementation grant strategies, that are employed throughout this document:

## 12 TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIES

**Strategy 1. Neighborhood.** *Create memorable places that give the neighborhood identity in mixed-use activity centers that provide places where people can shop, work and gather.* Addresses the need to create a neighborhood identity and provide access to goods and services in the neighborhood.

**Strategy 2. Neighborhood.** *Create an integrated network of pedestrian, bicycle, vehicular and transit systems that offers safe, accessible and attractive connections within the neighborhood and to city-wide and regional destinations.* Addresses the need to increase connectivity and access, to improve the condition of the existing infrastructure, and to support public safety.

**Strategy 3. Neighborhood/Housing.** *Stabilize the neighborhood by removing blight and preserving existing housing in areas traumatized by degraded housing stock and foreclosures.* Addresses the need to remove the vacant/abandoned housing stock and the need to preserve the existing serviceable housing stock.

**Strategy 4. Neighborhood/Housing.** *Create new, mixed-income housing so as to retain existing residents and attract new residents to a multicultural and economically diverse community.* Addresses the need to attract new residents to the area and increase the economic diversity of the neighborhood.

**Strategy 5. Neighborhood.** *Preserve and celebrate the neighborhood's history and heritage.* Addresses the need for a community identity and a destination for visitors, supporting economic development.

**Strategy 6. Neighborhood/Housing/People.** *Improve the quality of life for residents by supporting green, sustainable and healthy development via the expansion of park land and greenways, adherence to green building standards, and investment in sustainable urban agriculture and local food production.* Addresses the need for a community identity and to support healthy living for residents via the use of green initiatives and green space, particularly urban agriculture supporting healthy living and job creation.

**Strategy 7. Neighborhood/Housing/People.** *Create a safe environment for residents, workers, students, business owners and visitors.* Addresses the need to improve public safety, so as to attract businesses, residents, HBCU students, faculty and staff, as well as visitors.

**Strategy 8. Neighborhood/People.** *Create a strong, diversified neighborhood economy to reduce poverty and build ladders of opportunity to the middle class.* Addresses the need to create jobs and places where residents can spend their money, as well as a destination for non-residents to spend their money.

**Strategy 9. Neighborhood/People.** *Harness the energy and the economics of the AUCC schools.* Addresses the need to capitalize on the AUCC anchor institutions as the dominant economic engine of the area.

**Strategy 10. People.** *Create a world-class cradle-to-career educational pipeline program that fosters personal growth and student achievement* Addresses the need to improve the failed public school system and improve the neighborhood's marketability.

**Strategy 11. Neighborhood/People.** *Unleash the human potential of neighborhood residents.* Addresses the limited skills, lack of education and under-employment found in this low-income neighborhood.

**Strategy 12. Neighborhood/People.** *Sustainability through community engagement and participation.* Addresses the need to establish a process for meaningful participation, collaboration and dialogue with the community such that the community is informed and can engage in activities to shape and support the redevelopment.