University Choice Neighborhood Fact Sheet

Lead Organization:
Atlanta Housing Authority
City of Atlanta

Population:
11,619

Poverty Rate:
49%

Unemployment Rate:
20%

Key Partners:

Housing Plan
McCormack Baron Salazar-Integral UCNI, LLC

Neighborhood Plan
City Of Atlanta
Invest Atlanta
The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
Atlanta Regional Commission
Atlanta BeltLine
MARTA

People Plan
Atlanta Community Food Bank
Atlanta Public Schools
Atlanta University Center Consortium, Inc.
Atlanta Urban League
Atlanta Workforce Development Authority
Boys and Girls Clubs
Clark Atlanta University
Communities in Schools
Families First
Family Health Centers of Georgia
Georgia Pacific
Literacy Action
Morehouse College
Morehouse School of Medicine
National CARES Mentoring Movement
Smart and Secure Children
Spelman College
United Way of Greater Atlanta
Urban League of Greater Atlanta

Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI): HUD’s signature placed-based initiative built on the framework of the HOPE VI Program. The CNI focuses on the revitalization of a distressed public housing site and the surrounding neighborhood using collective resources to implement comprehensive resident-driven strategies linking neighborhood, housing, and people-focused initiatives to transform an entire community.

Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan (NTP): Developed through extensive collaboration between the City of Atlanta (COA), a host of organizations, stakeholders and the community residents of NPU-L and NPU-T, the NTP is a comprehensive set of coordinated strategies that outline a road map to neighborhood revitalization, linking new and rehabilitated housing with well-functioning services, schools, public assets, transportation and jobs. The Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) received $250,000 from HUD in 2010 CN Planning Grant funds to develop the NTP with a focus on revitalizing the former University Homes and three (3) neighborhoods of Westside Atlanta: Vine City, Ashview Heights and Atlanta University Center Neighborhood collectively known as the University Choice Neighborhood (UCN).

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant (CNIG): Provides funding to implement strategies identified in the NTP as the basis for a CNIG application. In November 2014, HUD issued a request for applications under the FY2014 CNIG program for up to $30M. AHA applied as the Lead Applicant with the City of Atlanta as the Co-Applicant, and were awarded the grant on September 28, 2015. The $30M in grant funding has leveraged $395M in commitments from AHA, the City of Atlanta, Invest Atlanta and other organizations.

Housing Plan: Focuses on the revitalization of University Homes, now known as Scholars Landing. The proposed masterplan includes a total of 584 units. 100 affordable senior rental units and 60 senior affordable assisted living units are complete. CN will provide funding to support the construction of 373 mixed-income multi-family rental units with ground floor retail and 33 for-sale homes. The historic Roosevelt Administration Building will be rehabbed as a community center with office, community and retail space.

Neighborhood Plan: Builds on the neighborhood assets while creating a framework to address the on-going issues of livability, safety, education, community services and vacant and blighted properties. Aligning with the approach to revitalization developed by Invest Atlanta for the Westside TAD Study Area, CN investments include demolition of vacant and distressed structures in partnership with COA Code Enforcement, restoration of existing housing stock to include owner-occupied rehab in partnership with the COA Department of Planning and Community Development, acquisition of blighted properties and development of new mixed-income housing, addition of green space, urban farming and healthy living programs, installation of neighborhood history trail markers, and enhancement of pedestrian connectivity.

People Plan: Grounded in a service delivery model that provides individualized, wrap around services to clients with four interrelated strategies: case management/coaching and counseling, income and wealth building, health and wellness, and high-quality education and life-long learning. The goal is to improve the economic, education, and health outcomes for the former residents of University Homes, now known as Scholars Landing, the new residents of Scholars Landing, and community residents.

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