



ORLANDO HOUSING AUTHORITY

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS APRIL 18, 2012

1. Why is this Community Meeting being held?

This meeting is being held to introduce the community to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant program.

2. What is a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant?

- HUD established the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to fund a process to improve neighborhoods where there is HUD-assisted housing like Lorna Doone Apartments.
- The Planning Grant will include assessing the needs of:
 - Housing
 - People, and
 - The Neighborhood
- The Planning Grant **will not** fund:
 - Eminent domain
 - Redevelopment activities, and
 - Programs
- The maximum Planning Grant award is \$300,000.

3. Who is applying for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant?

The Orlando Housing Authority (OHA) has partnered with Creative Village Development, LLC; they are applying as partners to HUD.

4. Who is the Orlando Housing Authority?

The Orlando Housing Authority (OHA) provides affordable housing for low and moderate income households through two (2) basic programs: The Public Housing program and the Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher program. The Orlando Housing Authority has more than 15 years experience that includes the planning of the Hampton Park community at the corner of Bumby Avenue and Robinson Street and Carver Park community at the corner of Westmoreland Drive and Gore Street. The Orlando Housing Authority is not a City of Orlando agency; it has a seven member Board of Commissioners.



5. Who is Creative Village Development, LLC?

Creative Village Development, LLC is a joint venture partnership between Banc of America Community Development Corporation and Creative Village Orlando, LLC, a local development entity. The City of Orlando selected this partnership through a competitive process to redevelop the old Amway Arena site.

6. What is the Creative Village?

The Creative Village is a vision that encompasses office space, a community school; mixed income housing, high-tech employment centers, and other activities to be determined.

7. If awarded, how will the Planning Grant be utilized?

The Orlando Housing Authority will use the Planning Grant to administer the planning process which will include:

- Needs assessments
- Data collection
- Identification of neighborhood assets, etc

8. What are the areas that the Planning Grant will cover?

The areas that the Planning Grant will cover include the Lorna Doone Apartments and the Creative Village site. The specific boundaries are:

- East, CSX/AMTRAK Railway
- North, Colonial Drive
- West, Tampa Avenue
- South, Long Street/408 Toll Road

For purposes of this grant, this overall area is referred to as “Downtown West.”

9. Why am I involved in the Planning Grant, if it is not focused on where I live?

Your input is vital because it is your neighborhood.

10. How will the residents of the Lorna Doone Apartments benefit?

Lorna Doone Apartments residents will also participate in the planning process. The Orlando Housing Authority will continue to work with them to make improvements to their apartments.

11. How long will the planning process take?

HUD allows up to two years to complete the planning activities.

12. Will there be more community meetings?

If the Planning Grant is awarded, additional community meetings will be held. Information about future meetings will be available on the Orlando Housing Authority's website: www.orl-oha.org.

13. What will happen after the planning process ends?

The Orlando Housing Authority (OHA) and Creative Village, LLC will continue to seek funds to implement the Plan.

14. Why are the Lorna Doone Apartments included in the boundaries?

The Lorna Doone Apartments are included in the boundaries because HUD requires that each application must focus on the revitalization of at least one severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted housing complex. Lorna Doone Apartments fulfill that HUD requirement.

15. Why is the Creative Village site included in the boundaries?

The Creative Village site offers the opportunity for large-scale economic development in the neighborhood which can create employment opportunities and support small businesses.

16. What kind of investment will be made in the community with the planning grant?

The award of a Planning Grant will allow a planning process to move forward with input from all community stakeholders as to how they would like to see the neighborhood improved. The development of a plan will be the investment. The plan will better position us to apply for additional funds to implement improvements - indicated in the plan.

17. Can Planning Grant funds be used for painting houses in the neighborhood?

No. Planning Grant funds **cannot** be used for acquisition, relocation, demolition, remediation, construction, or any physical improvements which includes painting houses.

18. Will the term "Downtown West" replace what is now called Parramore?

No. The term "Downtown West" was chosen to simply identify the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant application that will be submitted to HUD by the Orlando Housing Authority and the Creative Village Development, LLC. The boundaries of the general neighborhood tagged "Downtown West" in the Planning Grant are much larger than the boundaries of the Parramore neighborhood.

19. Will the Callahan Neighborhood Center be demolished?

No. The Planning Grant cannot be used for demolition.

20. Will there be transparency in how the money is spent?

If we are awarded the Planning Grant, the OHA will adhere to strict Federal requirements for accountability of funds, as it does with all funds.

21. Will the Plan be in writing? Will we see it when it is done?

Yes. The plan will be in writing. You will be able to access the plan on the Orlando Housing Authority website where it will be posted.