



Cincinnati, OH

Choice Neighborhoods Lead Grantee: Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority

Target Public Housing Projects: Stanley Rowe Highrises, Stanley Rowe Rowhouses, and Liberty Street Apartments

Target Neighborhood: West End

Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$410,000

Key Partners: Cincinnati Development Fund | Cincinnati Public Schools | City of Cincinnati | Community Building Institute | FC Cincinnati | Greater Cincinnati Foundation | LISC | Pennrose | Seven Hills Neighborhood House | Stanley Resident Advisory Councils | West End Art Gallery

Project Summary:

The West End of Cincinnati was once a thriving epicenter of African American culture, wealth and business. Located just outside of Cincinnati's central business district and north of the waterfront, the West End was a vibrant commerce hub in the 1940s with more than 62,000 residents calling it home. However, 1950s urban renewal programs ravaged the West End by displacing thousands of families with the wholesale demolition of a 400-acre section of the neighborhood, tearing apart the social, political and cultural fabric that defined this community. Today, only 6,600 residents live in the West End neighborhood compared to the more than 62,000 residents of the 1940s. Many of these remaining residents live within the Stanley Rowe Highrise, Stanley Rowe Rowhouses, and Liberty Street public housing developments. Together, these three properties are in need of more than \$69 million in immediate capital needs – far beyond what rehabilitation alone can support.

Despite decades of neighborhood disinvestment, the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority, neighborhood anchor institution Seven Hills Neighborhood House, and other community-based partners have been working closely with neighborhood residents to carefully plan for inclusive investment in the West End. These partnerships between neighborhood organizations and residents come at a critical time as stakeholders report gentrification creeping west from Cincinnati's Central Business District, Over-The-Rhine and Pendleton neighborhoods, as well as north from the recent FC Cincinnati soccer stadium development.

The award of a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will allow for West End stakeholders to build consensus, collaborate, and establish a commitment to preserve and protect affordable housing. More than 35 committed partners have signed on to participate in this two-year planning process, led by the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority, Xavier University's Community Building Institute, and Seven Hills Neighborhood House. Through this planning process, community members and stakeholders will identify local assets, discuss current challenges, and create a vision for the future. These efforts will create an integrated and holistic plan to revitalize the Stanley Rowe and Liberty Street properties, improve neighborhood safety, and bolster education, health, and employment outcomes for families.