

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 31, 2023**

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02

WHEREAS, On July 28, 2022, HUD released the Choice Neighborhoods Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the **Choice Neighborhoods Grant**.; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the grant is to help communities transform neighborhoods by redeveloping severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood.; and

WHEREAS, HANO applied for the NOFO and received notice on December 22, 2022, that it was **awarded the grant in the amount of \$409,000**; and

WHEREAS, the grant has a **two-year performance period** to develop a Transformation Plan for the neighborhood that focuses on housing, people, and neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, HANO will abide by the tenets of its grant proposal and use best efforts to make extensive outreach to stakeholders in the B.W. Cooper neighborhood to facilitate meaningful community participation and stakeholder collaboration in all phases of the CNI Planning process; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes Evette Hester to sign HUD certifications and agreements related to the Choice Neighborhoods Planning for submission to HUD.

Executed this 31st day of January 2023.

APPROVAL:




**CAROL GEORGE JOHNSON
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



To: Board of Commissioners
President Carol Johnson, Vice President Avery Foret, Commissioner Percy Manson, Commissioner Monika K. McKay, Commissioner Kim Piper, Commissioner Paul Richard, and Commissioner Jeffrey Vappie

Through: Evette Hester
Executive Director

From:  Jessica D. Knox
Senior Planning and Policy Analyst

Re: Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant

On July 28, 2022, HUD released the Choice Neighborhoods Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the **Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant**. The Choice Neighborhoods program leverages significant public and private dollars to support locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with severely distressed public housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Local leaders, residents, and other stakeholders, such as public housing agencies, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private developers, come together to create and implement a plan that revitalizes distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood. Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals – housing, people, and neighborhood. **The program helps communities transform neighborhoods by redeveloping severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood.**

HANO applied for the NOFO and received notice on December 22, 2022, that it received the CNI Planning grant in the amount of **\$409,000**. The grant has a **two-year performance period**. In the grant, HANO proposed to engage with former residents of BW Cooper, current residents of Marrero Commons, residents within the surrounding community and nonprofits, business partners, and universities including historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). HANO will identify current assets and needs to help in developing a Transformation Plan for the neighborhood which will be submitted to HUD in 2024.

HUD has sent certificates and an agreement to sign showing HANO's acceptance of the grant. HUD has asked that HANO seek board approval allowing the Executive Director, Evette Hester, to sign certifications and the grant agreement on behalf of HANO.

It is hereby requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize Evette Hester to sign HUD provided certifications and grant agreement.