



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Christi Lanier Robinson
502-609-9141

Russell residents have opportunity to suggest “Action Activities” to kick start the neighborhood’s Transformation Plan.

One-week polling effort will help determine highest priorities for the neighborhood

(Louisville, Kentucky--) Residents from the Russell neighborhood are being invited to provide input on the types of physical improvements they want to see funded through a \$1 million federal grant that was awarded to the Louisville Metro Housing Authority in June.

The funds are part of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI), a program focused on transforming distressed communities into mixed-income communities that are physically and financially viable over the long term.

The \$1 million grant award is being supplemented by a contribution of \$375,000 from Louisville Metro Government. Non-profits and other organizations will have the opportunity to submit proposals for potential projects through a competitive process that will be introduced in October.

The CNI Action Activities grant is designed to help inspire other investments in Russell and to jumpstart the implementation of a comprehensive plan to transform the neighborhood — an effort that has been branded Vision Russell.

“At this critical stage in the process, we want to be sure that Russell residents and other key stakeholders are driving the conversation,” said Mayor Greg Fischer. “As we work with HUD to consider short term projects and opportunities to improve this community, those voices are key, so I urge people to think about what they want to see here.”

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In partnership with the Center for Neighborhoods, outreach workers will host several open houses and will be stationed at various locations throughout Russell to collect feedback on the types of Action Activities that residents' would like to see funded.

Residents can also provide their input on Action Activities by completing the poll on-line. Additional details on the Action Activities grant and a link to the on-line poll can be found at www.visionrussell.org. A schedule for the open houses and locations where outreach workers will be stationed is attached.

Once the polling process has been completed, a selection committee comprised of Russell residents, LMHA and Metro Government staff will use the results to develop the guidelines for competitive proposals for Action Activity projects that will be introduced in October.

The selection committee will review proposals, and recommend projects to be included in a draft Action Plan that must be submitted to HUD for final approval.

Selected Action Activities will directly support the goals outlined in Russell's Transformation Plan, which is currently being developed through a \$425,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning grant that was awarded to LMHA in January 2015.

Since then, over 75 community workshops, meetings and other forums have been held to help inform the contents of a community-endorsed, implementable and financially feasible long-term plan for Russell. Details on the Transformation Plan's priorities are contained within the draft document (see www.lmha1.org) that was submitted to HUD in July 2016.

The final Russell Transformation Plan will be submitted to HUD in January 2017. To help fund the strategies outlined within the plan, LMHA and Louisville Metro Government applied for a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant in June.

If awarded, the grant could bring up to \$29,575,000 in federal funds to support Vision Russell's efforts. The Action Activities grant will allow Russell to continue to build on its momentum as Louisville awaits HUD's decision.

"The Russell neighborhood has lots of momentum and is increasingly attracting additional investment and interest," said Fischer. "As we await the decision on our larger grant application, these projects will allow the community to visibly see the progress that is and will continue to be made."

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**Vision Russell's Action Activity
Polling Schedule**

Monday, September 26

Baxter Community Center
1125 Cedar Court
6:00 p.m.-8:00

Tuesday, September 27

Baxter Community Center
1125 Cedar Court
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 28

Chestnut Street YMCA
930 West Chestnut Street
4:30-6:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 29

Oak and Acorn Intergenerational Senior Center
631 S. 28th Street
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 1

Pic Pac
24th and Market
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.