



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



*Have a question that isn't addressed below?  
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## **WHAT IS THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM?**

Choice Neighborhoods is a program operated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that supports locally driven strategies to provide a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Building off of the revitalization of public housing, the program is designed to catalyze critical improvements in neighborhood assets, including vacant property, housing, services and schools.

## **WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF MILWAUKEE'S CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE (CNI)?**

Milwaukee's Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) is a City of Milwaukee project focused on helping the emerging area of Westlawn Gardens and the surrounding neighborhood on the northwest side of Milwaukee reach its full potential as a sustainable, green community with quality housing, schools, businesses, services, and amenities. The CNI strategy includes four core areas of focus: housing, people, neighborhood and education.

- A. Housing: Replace distressed public and assisted housing at Westlawn with high-quality, mixed-income housing that is well managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.
- B. People: Support positive outcomes for families who live in Westlawn, particularly outcomes related to residents' health, safety, employment and education.
- C. Neighborhood: Expand and build upon existing partnerships to transform the CNI neighborhood into a vibrant mixed-income, mixed-use community with amenities and assets that attract individuals and families.
- D. Education: Provide neighborhood youth with a high-quality educational pathway from prenatal to college or career.

## **HOW IS THIS EFFORT FUNDED?**

This effort is funded by a \$30M U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Grant as well as \$275M from community partners. In total, \$305M will support Milwaukee's Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan will be leveraged to bring additional resources to the area.

## **WHY WAS THIS NEIGHBORHOOD CHOSEN?**

The City of Milwaukee and Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) successfully applied for and received a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation (CNI) grant from HUD. Milwaukee was one of only five applicants to be awarded the competitive grant nationwide in 2015.

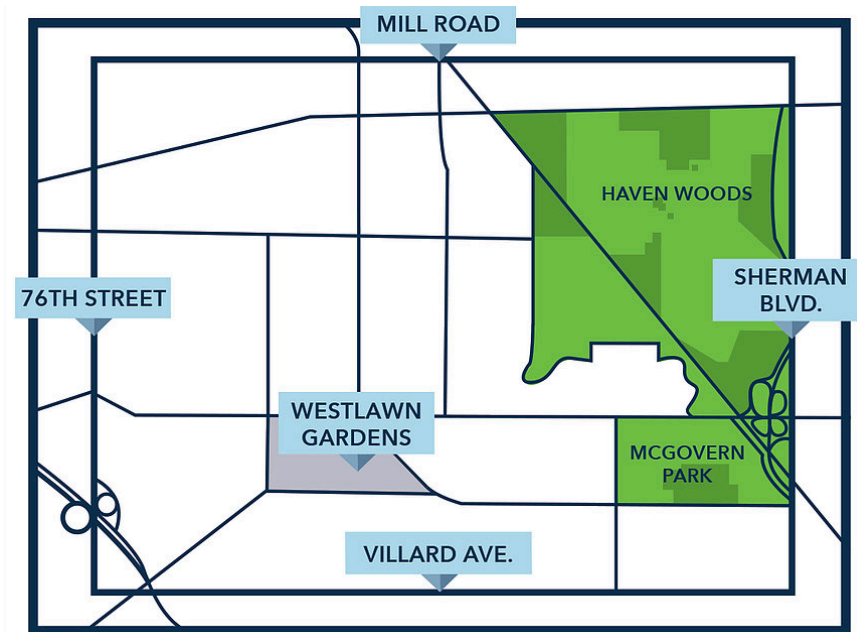
HUD recognized that the selected neighborhood was on the cusp of a major transformation, with a solid foundation to build upon, including the revitalization of the eastern half of the Westlawn public housing development in 2012 into modern, mixed-income and eco-friendly housing. The U.S. Green Building Council certified Westlawn Gardens in 2013 as one of the most sustainable neighborhoods in the world.

## **WHO IS LEADING THIS EFFORT?**

Milwaukee Mayor [Tom Barrett](#) leads Milwaukee's Choice Neighborhood Initiative, while [Tony Pérez](#) from the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee and [Sharon Robinson](#) from the Department of Administration serve as Choice Neighborhood Co-Chairs. Learn more [here](#).

### WHERE IS MILWAUKEE'S CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATED? WHAT ARE THE BOUNDARIES?

The area to be impacted by this effort is bordered by Sherman Boulevard on the east, 76th Street on the west, Mill Road on the north, and Villard Avenue on the south.



### HOW CAN I LEARN MORE AND / OR GET INVOLVED?

To be successful and sustainable, this effort requires the commitment of area residents and community partners. If you live in Milwaukee's Choice Neighborhood or are interested in getting involved, please participate in one of our upcoming [events](#), sign up for our [newsletter](#) to stay informed and [contact us](#) with your questions or the ways you'd like to contribute.