

# Early Action Activities

## What are they?

The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant provides **\$100,000** for “Early Action Activities.” These are targeted physical improvements in the Historic Midtown Neighborhood (including Palmetto Park, Caroline Village, and Walnut Oak) that take place during the planning process. Early Action Activities do the following:

1. Provide innovative solutions to neighborhood challenges
2. Help further the transformation of the neighborhood.

Early Action Activities support the planning process through engaging the community, building capacity, fostering social cohesion, or otherwise reinforcing the planning process. They must be responsive to the neighborhood’s needs and must be used for physical community development or economic development projects.

## Why?

Early Action projects improve neighborhood confidence, sustain the community’s energy, attract further engagement, build momentum, and help convince skeptical stakeholders that positive change is possible.



## Early Action Funds CANNOT Be Used For

- Non-physical uses
- Supportive services
- Administrative costs
- Marketing
- Basic infrastructure (streets, sidewalks)
- Basic municipal services (sanitation, mail delivery)
- Housing development activities
- Acquisition of new property
- Relocation
- Demolition costs
- Remediation
- Rehabilitation
- Construction

## Early Action Funds CAN Be Used For

- Turning vacant property into community gardens, pocket parks, or farmers markets
- Beautification, placemaking, and community arts projects, such as creative signage to enhance neighborhood branding, murals and sculptures, specialty streetscaping, or garden tool loan programs
- Owner-occupied home or business façade improvement programs
- Fresh food initiatives, such as farmers markets and mobile fresh food vendors
- Gap financing for economic development projects that are ready to implement and have secured all the necessary funding except for a modest gap.

## Examples:



Mural/Art Project

Farmer's Market

Crosswalk Art

Planters

Neighborhood Signage