

What is the Choice Neighborhoods Program?

Choice Neighborhoods has been a program at HUD since 2010, and is intended to help public housing authorities and cities develop and/or implement plans to support struggling neighborhoods with distressed public housing by addressing three key areas:

- **Housing** – replacing distressed public housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed, energy-efficient, sustainable, accessible, and equitable for all communities regardless of background.
- **People** – supporting the current residents of the targeted public housing to address any challenges they may have with respect to health, employment, and/or education and achieving their personal goals.
- **Neighborhood** – investing in amenities and assets – from businesses, public safety and parks to sidewalks and bike lanes - that enhance the neighborhood and make it a great place to live for all residents.

Housing Daytona Beach (HDB) and the City of Daytona Beach (CODB) received a Choice Planning Grant to help us develop such a plan – called a Transformation Plan – for Palmetto Park, Caroline Village, and Walnut Oak, and the surrounding Historic Midtown neighborhood in partnership with residents, local leaders, schools, business owners, and other community stakeholders.

What does the planning process look like?

HDB and the CODB will work with Palmetto Park, Caroline Village, and Walnut Oak residents, Historic Midtown neighborhood residents, local organizations, service providers, City departments, Bethune Cookman University, and more to develop the plan. We anticipate creating working groups to address priority issues like housing, economic development, transportation, employment, education, health and wellness, and more. HDB and the CODB will host several community meetings to obtain broader community involvement and input as the plan develops. There will also be focus groups and multiple other opportunities for you to get involved.

The first part of the planning process will be spent understanding the community and the needs and priorities of its residents. This will include a detailed resident survey of Palmetto Park, Caroline Village, and Walnut Oak households, walk audit of the community, one-on-one interviews, and more. The second part will be spent working with you to establish a vision for the community; what the community's goals are for Housing, People, and Neighborhood; and what are the strategies to achieve those goals. Finally, the last part of the planning process will be developing the Transformation Plan itself, including how we will implement the plan that has been created.

How long will the planning process take?

HDB and the CODB have two years from the award of the Choice Planning Grant to complete the Transformation Plan for Palmetto Park, Caroline Village, Walnut Oak, and the surrounding Historic Midtown neighborhood. The process started in October 2023 and will be completed by September 2025.

Will I have to move as a part of this grant?

No. HDB and the City are only developing a Transformation Plan through this process. You do not have to move. If at any point in the future you will need to move, HDB will provide plenty of notice and work with each affected family on their relocation needs.