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**HUD Awards Two Nearly \$30 million Choice Neighborhood Grants to Teams that Include Urban Strategies, Inc. and McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc.**

*Secretary Julian Castro announced the awards in St. Louis, Missouri to revitalize neighborhoods and transform subsidized housing in St. Louis and Louisville, Kentucky.*

**ST. LOUIS, MO (December 16, 2016)** – Joined by partners and dignitaries in St. Louis, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro on Monday announced the award of a \$29.5 million Choice Neighborhood Initiative Implementation Grant to the Near North Side Neighborhood in St. Louis and a \$29.575 million grant to the Russell Neighborhood in Louisville, KY. Urban Strategies, Inc., one of the leading national non-profit organizations that works to develop human capital and McCormack Baron Salazar, a housing developer, are lead entities in both of the cities.

“The Choice Neighborhood Initiative Implementations Grants will serve as catalysts to create critical pathways for families, businesses and stakeholders to thrive,” explained Esther Shin, incoming President of Urban Strategies.

In St. Louis, the lead applicant, the City of Saint Louis, was able to leverage the \$29.5 million grant with over \$2.6 billion in other public, private and philanthropic support to bring new housing, infrastructure, economic opportunities and supportive services to the neighborhood. At the heart of the plan is the transformation of the subsidized apartment complex, Preservation Square, into an economically integrated community with 695 new and renovated homes, community amenities like a pool and parks, and commercial space along 14<sup>th</sup> Street. A “People Plan”, developed and implemented by Urban Strategies, will support current low-income residents in the community. The neighborhood will benefit from additional investments, including the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency’s \$1.8 billion, 3,000+-employee western headquarters, a new community and recreational center, a \$5 million stretch of the Great Rivers Greenway’s 600-mile network of greenways, a \$1 million Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant, the \$8 billion NorthSide Regeneration Plan, small business loans, and significant investment in historic housing rehabilitation. The neighborhood is also in a Federally-designated Promise Zone.

In Louisville, Urban Strategies and McCormack Baron Salazar are partners with the Louisville Metro Housing Authority and the City of Louisville to transform the Russell neighborhood. Centered on the Beecher Terrace Public Housing site, the plan will demolish Beecher Terrace and replace it with 640 mixed-income rental and owner-occupied homes in a sustainable, multi-

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generational community. The neighborhood component of the grant, led by Louisville Forward, the economic development and community-building arm of Louisville Metro Government, will result in an eCommerce Business Incubator, a Media Production Center and a placemaking project on the site of the new, \$58M West Louisville FoodPort. In addition, the plan addresses vacant and abandoned properties, home repair needs and the creation of needed pocket parks and community gardens. Urban Strategies will provide case management and human supportive services to Beecher Terrace households. A new school Transformation Model, led by the Principal Education Partner, Jefferson County Public Schools, will improve outcomes for neighborhood elementary children.

Secretary Castro made the announcement, along with the announcement of three other Choice Neighborhood grants, at the Polish Heritage Hall of St. Stanislaus Kostka in the Near North Side neighborhood of Saint Louis. A total of \$132 million in grants will be shared between Saint Louis, MO; Louisville, KY; Denver, CO; Camden, NJ, and Boston, MA.

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A national leader in its field, Urban Strategies, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that specializes in human services development, planning and strategy implementation as part of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization. The organization has been involved in neighborhood revitalization efforts in 24 cities and more than 30 neighborhoods across the country, while serving more than 20,000 families. Urban Strategies has leveraged over \$225 million in supportive service partnerships. For additional information [www.urbanstrategiesinc.org](http://www.urbanstrategiesinc.org).