

**Choice MEANS Choice:  
A CNI Conference for  
Site Implementation Leaders**

**Topic 1: Effective strategies for job training**

- How can we work with off-lease family members whose employment impacts family well-being?
- How does re-entry of ex-offenders impact Choice households and what can be done to facilitate positive re-engagement with family, community and workforce?
- How can we **avoid** the disengaged young adult (aka “Opportunity Youth”) syndrome through early engagement with middle school and high school kids?
- What practical steps can communities take to attract corporate partners for transitioning youth and adult employment partnerships?

**Topic 2: Effective Case Management Strategies and Systems**

- The psychology of poverty: Discuss a behavioral approach to people living in poverty that views actions and decisions as an understandable response to scarcity.
- Learn about a successful case management model that is built upon meeting people where they are, both geographically and behaviorally, and sustaining a long term relationship with a case manager.

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**Topic 3: Neighborhood economic development: what power does a neighborhood have and how can it deploy it?**

- How does a neighborhood develop a resident- led and actionable strategy to encourage economic development?
- How can engagement in local politics work to the advantage of a neighborhood and what are strategies for getting involved?
- What economic development strategies improve conditions and opportunities for the people who already live there?
- What can a neighborhood do to ensure that its own youth will benefit from improved economic opportunities in the neighborhood and surrounding region?
- How can a community drive out predatory lenders and work to replace them with financial capability centers that will exist to serve the needs of residents?
- How can a community improve its attractiveness by eliminating/reducing blighted properties and vacant lots?

**Topic 4: Community Engagement: An Open Town Hall Meeting**

- Launch of the National Resident Leadership Network (NRLN) – When operational the NRLN will facilitate learning and sharing among resident leaders in “real time.”
- Ideas, programs and strategies will be shared among network members.
- Timely responses to emerging issues or crises that will benefit from real time information exchange and support.

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**Conference Agenda**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2016**

- Arrive on the morning of October 18<sup>th</sup> to participate in afternoon site tours that illustrate a comprehensive approach to community revitalization
- Join your hosts and colleagues for the conference opening dinner.

**Wednesday, October 19, 2016**

- A full day of presentations by national and local experts, small group discussions and networking.

**Thursday, October 20, 2016**

- A full day of presentations by national and local experts, small group discussions and networking.



Urban Strategies is a St. Louis-based not-for-profit corporation that specializes in human capital development, planning, and strategy implementation as a part of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization. Founded in 1978, Urban Strategies is engaged in large neighborhood redevelopment initiatives in 19 communities in 11 major cities across the country, coordinating collaborative efforts to transform public and private systems and support strong, self-sustaining people, families and communities. Currently Urban Strategies serves as the lead implementer for people strategies in seven cities that are implementing Choice Neighborhood initiatives, overseeing more than \$31 million in support services funding for families impacted by community transformation. Urban Strategies is the coordinating agency for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning initiative for Preservation Square and the Near North Side.



*Sandra  
Moore,  
President*



*Esther Shin,  
Executive VP*

**Dual-generation pathways toward self-sufficiency**

**Economic empowerment and opportunities for  
upward mobility**

**Housing independence in neighborhoods of choice**

**Healthy families, healthy communities**



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Near North Side Choice - STL**