

PRESS RELEASE



Joseph L. Smith, Chairman, Board of Commissioners Janet Abrahams, Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tania Baker
410-396-4564
tania.baker@habc.org

HABC and Baltimore City Awarded \$30 million from HUD to Transform the Perkins Somerset Oldtown Community

Baltimore is one of five cities to receive the highly competitive award

(Baltimore, MD - July 19, 2018) – Today, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) Executive Director Janet Abrahams, Mayor Catherine E. Pugh, Department of Housing & Community Development Housing Commissioner Michael Braverman, elected officials, residents and partners joined U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Joe DeFelice as he announced a \$30 million grant for HABC and the City of Baltimore to implement their neighborhood transformation plan. The grant, which is provided through HUD's [Choice Neighborhoods Initiative](#), will help revitalize the Perkins Somerset Oldtown (PSO) neighborhoods.

"HABC would like to thank HUD for awarding a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to HABC and the City of Baltimore to fulfill our long-term vision of transforming the Perkins, Somerset, Old Town area," said Executive Director Janet Abrahams. "We are very excited to take the next step with our federal, state, city and community partners in this major redevelopment project, which will replace distressed public housing with high quality housing for people from all income levels and create new education, recreation and economic opportunities that will connect residents to the tools they need to achieve their personal goals."

Baltimore is one of five cities selected to receive the combined \$144 million in Choice Neighborhoods grants. The other cities include Flint, Michigan; Phoenix, Arizona; Shreveport, Louisiana; and Tulsa, Oklahoma. The five awardees will replace 1,788 severely distressed public housing units with 3,800 new mixed-income, mixed-use housing units as part of an overall effort to revitalize neighborhoods. HABC's transformation plan will revolve around the redevelopment of Perkins Homes, which includes 629 units of public housing, and the integration of housing into the footprint of the Perkins Somerset and Old Town neighborhoods. The PSO Housing Plan calls for a new mixed-income and mixed-use community of 1,345 total units.

"Congratulations to Mayor Pugh and Executive Director Abrahams on their grant award," said DeFelice. "Now, it's time to make the transformation plan a reality. I'm looking forward to seeing a vibrant community emerge as Baltimore City leverages the power of public-private partnerships to create neighborhoods where families can thrive with a renewed sense of hope and opportunity."

"This significant grant by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development is transformative. It will help guarantee affordable new housing for every resident of Perkins Homes. It will also enable us to

Housing Authority of Baltimore City Office of Communications | 417 East Fayette Street | Baltimore, MD. 21202

☎ 410.396.4564 💻 www.HABC.baltimorehousing.org [TWITTER](#) [Facebook](#) ▶ @BmoreHabc 🏠

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attract further investment for the creation of a new school, additional housing and community development. We are excited for Baltimore and all our partners in this revitalization project who, together with us, are moving Baltimore forward,” said Mayor Catherine E. Pugh.

“This grant gives us the opportunity to make transformational changes that directly benefit the longtime residents of the neighborhoods,” said Department of Housing and Community Development Commissioner Michael Braverman. “There is a lot of work to do to get there, but we have the right team assembled and the cross-jurisdictional support that we need to get it done.”

“The revitalization of East Baltimore holds tremendous potential for the growth and economic development of the city. The Choice Neighborhoods grant gives Baltimore the flexibility to prioritize projects that are important to our communities and leverage private dollars to have the maximum impact. These funds are crucial to improving public housing, eliminating vacant properties, and supporting local schools and public services. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I fought hard to maintain funding for this very important program, and I will continue working to invest in Baltimore and the entire state,” said U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen.

“I applaud Baltimore City for winning this competitive grant that will expand the federal-local partnership to enhance development in East Baltimore,” said U.S. Senator Ben Cardin. “Baltimore’s Congressional delegation continues to fight to preserve such grant programs that are spurring private-public partnerships and supporting our local neighborhoods, so they can reach their fullest potential.”

“I am excited about the revitalization opportunities this Choice Neighborhood grant will bring to Baltimore City,” said Rep. Elijah E. Cummings. “I commend HUD for awarding the grant to help improve housing and living conditions for residents who have been neglected for far too long. It is an investment in a community that will impact the lives of future generations.”

In November 2017, HABC and the City of Baltimore jointly submitted a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) grant application to HUD to redevelop Perkins Homes and the surrounding community. The PSO Transformation Plan calls for the demolition and redevelopment of Perkins Homes into a vibrant mixed income community with affordable and market rate housing, a new 21st Century school, new community amenities and opportunities, neighborhood improvements, and a supportive services plan aimed at helping families meet their goals.

Further details about the Perkins Somerset Oldtown Transformation Plan can be found at <http://www.baltimorehousing.org/perkinsproject/>

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