

QUESTION:

What is the update on the progress of the Providence Housing Authority's interest/application for the Rental Demonstration Assistance Program (RAD)?

ANSWER:

The Providence Housing Authority is very interested in the RAD Program but is still gathering pertinent information regarding the program's benefits and meaning to the entire organization. The PHA has not submitted any RAD applications to date.

QUESTION:

What is the unit mixed being proposed for newly developed Manton Heights?

ANSWER:

The public housing unit mix will be based on the current household sizes, the list of over and under housed families as well as the current waiting list at Manton Heights; it will include a healthy mix of 1-5 bedrooms. A new market study will best inform the approach for unit mix for the non-public housing units (LIHTC and market rate) at the new Manton Heights.

QUESTION:

Have the 75 off-site unit locations been determined yet?

ANSWER:

Olneyville Housing Corporation has identified at least 44 unit locations, but there are ample opportunities for off-site locations due to the community's foreclosure crisis.

QUESTION:

Has the new Manton Heights size and scale been set or envisioned yet?

ANSWER:

The Providence team is open to suggestions to increase the height of the buildings and density although they are not interested in building towers/high-rises at the new Manton Heights site. Developers should note the interesting topography of the Manton Heights site.

QUESTION:

Will the PILOT with the city remain on the new development.

ANSWER:

There has been no discussion to date with The City of Providence regarding the PILOT.

QUESTION:

What community groups are involved with the CNI Planning Grant?

ANSWER:

The TA Consultant, EJP Consulting Group, is very clear about what the next steps of neighborhood engagement are for the final Build Olneyville Plan. They have several representative groups/resources to engage for this process:

Task Forces for Housing, Neighborhood, People, and Education will continue to meet.

Last year, the Manton Heights Planning Committee (MHPC) consisting of 20-30 members was formed and meets regularly. MHPC members also signed on to be actively involved with the subcommittees that are scheduled to meet soon.

In Olneyville, the Olneyville Collaborative, a large group of community residents and stakeholder organizations, is active and embedded in the ongoing activities in the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Circles are popular and bring dinners and neighborhood leaders together to exchange ideas and information.

Olneyville's centrally located elementary school, the William D'Abate School, is considered the social heart of the neighborhood.

In 2008, Olneyville Housing Corporation and RI's Local Support Initiatives (LISC) conducted a series of one-on-one interviews (170) that resulted in 2,500 ideas about what the community thought should happen in their neighborhood that was documented in the Olneyville Action Plan.

QUESTION:

Who will be the lead applicant in a Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Implementation Grant application?

ANSWER:

This is a good question and has not been determined. PHA and its partners, including the Master Developer, will review the scoring requirements and collectively decide Leads who will be most competitive for an Implementation application.

QUESTION:

The most recent CNI NOFA emphasizes EDUCATION as a key component. Why does the Providence plan have EDUCATION as a subcomponent under PEOPLE.

ANSWER:

Like the CNI NOFA, The Providence Team treats EDUCATION as a subcomponent of People. Meeting Street is a strong partner education partner and the EDUCATION piece will continue to be a strong component in the vision for Olneyville.

QUESTION:

What will be the role of the Providence Housing Authority? There is language in the RFQ that mentions that the housing authority would like to have some involvement with property management? Can you expand on that?

The PHA has capacity with Resident Services and Property/Facilities Management but has not established solid ideas around their roles in the project. The housing authority and partners are looking forward to examining the proposals that are presented to them in this process.