

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1803

June 13, 2023

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410

RE: Support for the Mid City Neighborhood CNI Transformation in Lake Charles, LA

Secretary Fudge,

I support the Lake Charles Housing Authority (LCHA)'s application for the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant Program for the Mid City Neighborhood in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Choice Neighborhood Program has successfully been implemented in other communities throughout Louisiana and will be instrumental in Lake Charles' recovery from devastating natural disasters.

Lake Charles is the economic heart of Southwest Louisiana, and it has felt the wrath of several natural disasters in recent history. In early 2021, a winter storm gripped the parish, followed by significant spring flooding. In the aftermath of this unfortunate pattern of recent extreme weather events, a great portion of Lake Charles housing has been decimated. The Choice Neighborhoods program will be a crucial tool to leverage private investment in redeveloping long-neglected communities with long-term resilience and sustainability in mind. In the summer of 2020 alone, two major hurricanes, Laura and Delta, slammed Lake Charles in quick succession.

Given the severe distress facing this community, the Mid City Neighborhood CNI project not only addresses the much-needed redevelopment of an obsolete public housing community but also creates opportunity and hope for the comprehensive community transformation promised by a well-implemented CNI undertaking. The Mid City CNI will induce positive impacts and will be instrumental in the long-term post-disaster housing recovery of Lake Charles.

I support the Lake Charles Housing Authority's application for the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant Program. I request your careful consideration of this important project and look forward to working with you to address long-term recovery efforts in the region.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress