



County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

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February 12, 2024

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

RE: East Adams/Syracuse CNI Application – Housing/Neighborhood Leverage by SHA

Dear Secretary Fudge,

Onondaga County is excited to partner with the Syracuse Housing Authority and the City of Syracuse on your FY2023 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Implementation grant application to bring the Connecting the East Adams Street Transformation Plan from vision to reality. We enjoy a long-standing partnership with both the Syracuse Housing Authority and the City of Syracuse in providing a wide range of human service, infrastructure, and neighborhood and business redevelopment investments to this community.

We have a demonstrated and deep commitment to strengthening the stability and economic prosperity of all families in our community. To this end, the County continues to make significant investments in a comprehensive approach to early learning, with the goal of improving the educational and developmental outcomes of children aged 0-5 and ensure that they are ready for kindergarten and beyond. Onondaga County invested in the Children Rising Center project, to be developed directly in the footprint. Additionally, the County continues to support educational strategies benefitting children from the neighborhood with the following critical Neighborhood Plan investment:

- 1) **\$74 million in bond funding** to support the renovation of the former Greystone Building, located at 701-745 South Warren Street into STEAM at Syracuse Central, which will serve as the region's first, true science, technology, engineering, arts, and math centered high school, which will serve approximately 800-1,000 students once completed and fully matriculated. The building serves as an anchor between the New 15th Ward/East Adams and downtown Syracuse. This project is expected for completion in time for a fall 2025 cohort of approximately 250 ninth grade students.

To advance the "**Housing Plan**" for the residents of McKinney Manor and Pioneer Homes, Onondaga County commits to the following development costs:

- 2) **\$7 million in public infrastructure investments**, subject to legislative approval, to support the New 15th Ward/East Adams housing and neighborhood redevelopment,

which will include new water mains in roadways, source/ outfall connections, and a portion of the internal infrastructure needed to support the new housing development and safer and more walkable streetways. **The County is contemplating an additional commitment of \$7 million for future phases.**

To advance the "**People Plan**" for the residents of McKinney Manor and Pioneer Homes, Onondaga County commits to the following existing services:

- 3) **School-Based Initiatives within Dr. King Elementary School:** There are two school-based programs offered at Dr. King Elementary School that support the unique needs of children and families to ensure success. The Promise Zone Program is a school-based mental health program that matches students' emotional and behavioral needs with effective, targeted interventions designed to develop skills and increase engagement in instructional time through a multi-tiered system of support. The Family Support for Student Success Program provides an intervention based on the knowledge that every family wants their child to be successful and every child has the potential for success. The Program's overall goal is to increase student success by improving family functioning, decreasing risk, ensuring access to needed supports and services, and increasing parent involvement in their child's education. At Dr. King Elementary, Onondaga County will invest one full time staff position through Promise Zone and two-Family Support for Student Success positions to serve up to 200 children and families per year for an investment of \$225,000 per year for eight years (2024-2032) for a **total of \$1,800,000.**

The following are considered new commitments:

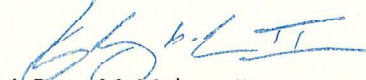
- 4) **Childcare Subsidies:** Onondaga County provides childcare subsidies for eligible households through our Department of Social Services: Economic Security. We understand that the goals of the People Plan include increasing the percentage of those eligible to participate in the workforce to 75% employment by 2028. To address this increased need amongst the target households in McKinney Manor and Pioneer Homes, we will support subsidies to 35 new families at an average amount of \$3,100 per year for eight years for a total of **\$868,000.**
- 5) **2Gen Onondaga Initiative:** 2Gen Onondaga is taking on a multigenerational approach to address the needs of both adults and children, specifically with young mothers that are on Temporary Assistance and were also on their mother's Temporary Assistance case as children. This project will consist of a wraparound, intensive case management design that will concentrate on the needs of both mom and her child(ren). There will be a shift away from the standard practice of measuring success by client compliance, to measuring success by client engagement and goal achievement. We estimate 40 moms, and 65 children will participate from this Target Neighborhood valued at \$7,500 per year for eight years for a total of **\$2,400,000.**

In total, over the eight-year grant performance period (2024-2032), Onondaga County is committing a total of \$86,068,000 to support the Transformation Plan, with \$74,000,000 supporting the Neighborhood Plan, \$10,000,000 supporting the housing plan, and \$5,068,000 supporting the people plan.

Onondaga County understands that if the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant is awarded, the Syracuse Housing Authority, the City of Syracuse, and their team will implement the Transformation Plan to revitalize McKinney Manor and Pioneer Homes housing communities, as well as the surrounding 15th Ward/East Adams neighborhood. We are dedicated to supporting and collaborating with the team to provide our services in support of the People and Neighborhood Plans.

Please do not hesitate to reach my office with any questions at (315) 435-3516.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Ryan McMahon, II". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and "M".

J. Ryan McMahon, II
Onondaga County Executive