



UNION SQUARE

A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

Early Action Committee

May 2, 2024



For More Information Visit
UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM

Updates

Meet and Greet – February 8, 2024

Meet and Greet provided an opportunity for our key stakeholders to meet the master planner team – Torti Gallas + Partners

Joint Task Force Meeting – February 28, 2024

During our Joint Task Force Committee meeting, each participant had the chance to provide direct feedback on the draft resident assessments that Yale School of Management will use to conduct the assessments

HUD Site Visit – March 12, 2024

During our HUD Site visit, ECC, Glendower, Wolfe Tenant Council, and our Master Planner Team provided HUD with an update on our planning process



Updates

People Task Force Meeting – March 13, 2024

In the virtual task force meeting, participants reviewed basic demographics of individuals at Robert T. Wolfe residents. We delved into their needs, barriers, strengths, and interests, focusing on employment, income, health, adult education, and continual learning

Housing and Neighborhood Task Forces Meeting – March 20, 2024

In the Neighborhood and Housing Task Force meeting, we reviewed the housing plan components and leveraged prior planning efforts in our current initiative discussions

Resident Advisory Committee Meeting – March 27, 2024

In the Resident Advisory Committee meeting, we discussed the Resident Survey and resident voted on their top priorities for Early Action Activities

Steering Committee Meeting – March 28, 2024

Yale School of Management president the Resident Assessment survey and obtained advise from the committee and others. The protocols for completing the Neighborhood Assessment was discussed



UNION SQUARE
A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

www.unionsquarechoice.com

Updates

Resident Advisory Committee – April 1, 2024

Reviewed Final Survey and discussed EAA

Final Resident Assessment Survey

Yale School of Management completed the Resident Assessment Survey

Hill Community Day – May 18, 2024



UNION SQUARE
A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

www.unionsquarechoice.com

Doing While Planning

Early Action Activities

Early Action Activity Refers to limited, physical neighborhood improvements undertaken during the planning process.

These activities should support the planning process through:

- Engaging the community
- Fostering social cohesion
- Reinforce the planning process

Activities must:

- Be responsive to neighborhood needs
- Used for physical community development or
- Economic development that enhances and accelerates the transformation of the neighborhood.



Doing While Planning

Early Action Activities

All planning grantees are expected to implement “Doing While Planning” activities during the planning process (24 months).

- Can be funded through leveraged commitments
- Grantees can use \$150k of \$500k for Early Action Activities
- Must support the planning process

Early Action Activities cannot be used for:

- Non-physical uses, such as supportive services, administrative costs, marketing
- Basic infrastructure or as a substitute for basic municipal services; or
- Redevelopment of public or HUD-assisted housing targeted by application, including acquisition, relocation, demolition and remediation, rehabilitation, or construction of the targeted housing



Examples of Early Action Activities

Lewiston, ME

- For a dense, urban, and low-income neighborhood full of young children, Lewiston revamped the Four-Season Park, complete with a new sledding hill for Maine's snowy winters
- Mural painted by children using their handprints to represent their countries of origin.

Richmond, VA

- Calhoun Park Improvements
- Public Art at Community Garden
- Calhoun Center Renovation



Examples of Early Action Activities

Newport News, VA

- The boardwalk is one of the Early Action Activities for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Grant the city received from HUD for the Marshall-Ridley neighborhood. The early action activities are projects or investments residents chose to help transform their community.

Fort Wayne, IN

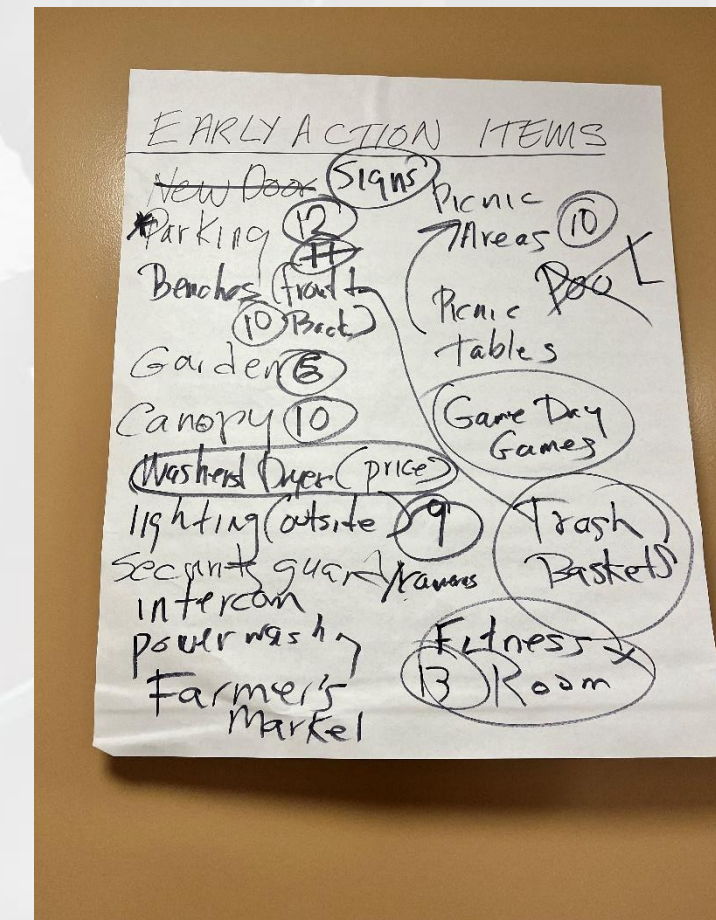
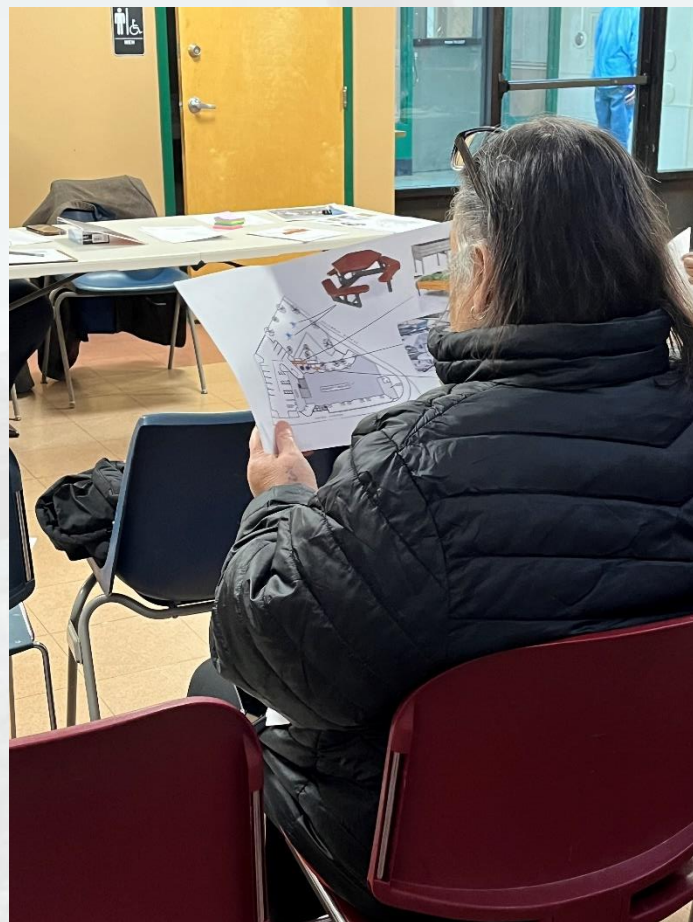
- Residents were concerned with pedestrian safety and access to fresh food. From these concerns came two Early Action Activities:
 - Pedestrian Safety Improvements - Solar-powered “Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons” (RRFBs) and sidewalk extensions.
 - Community Garden



Possible EAA in Union Square/The Hill

Resident Advisory Committee

The Resident Advisory Committee met on March 27, 2024, and were given an opportunity to recommend the work they wanted to see a part of the Early Action Activities. Each person present was asked to give recommendations and approximately 20 participants made recommendations. The recommendations were grouped by category and a vote was taken on each item. There were also some recommendations that may not qualify as Early Action Items.



UNION SQUARE
A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

www.unionsquarechoice.com

Possible EAA In Union Square/The Hill

Resident Advisory Committee Priority Activities

- Enhance outdoor space in of Robert T. Wolfe of property with items that can be moved to new development
 - Canopy
 - Gazebo
 - Exercise Equipment

Signages

Farmers Market

City of New Haven

Splash Pad at Trowbridge Park

Façade Improvements

Barbell Façade

Glendower

Underground RR markers at Trowbridge

Exercise Stations at parks



UNION SQUARE
A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

www.unionsquarechoice.com

Summary Possible EAA In Union Square

- Barbell Renovation- City has a \$1.5 million grant
- Business Façade Improvements
- Homeowner Façade Improvements
- Park Improvements
 - Trowbridge Park
 - Other Parks
- Lighting
- Crosswalk Improvements
- Farmers' Market
- Community Arts
- Signages
- Community Gardens
- Repurposing Vacant Land
- Improvements at R.T. Wolfe



EAA Planning and Approval Process

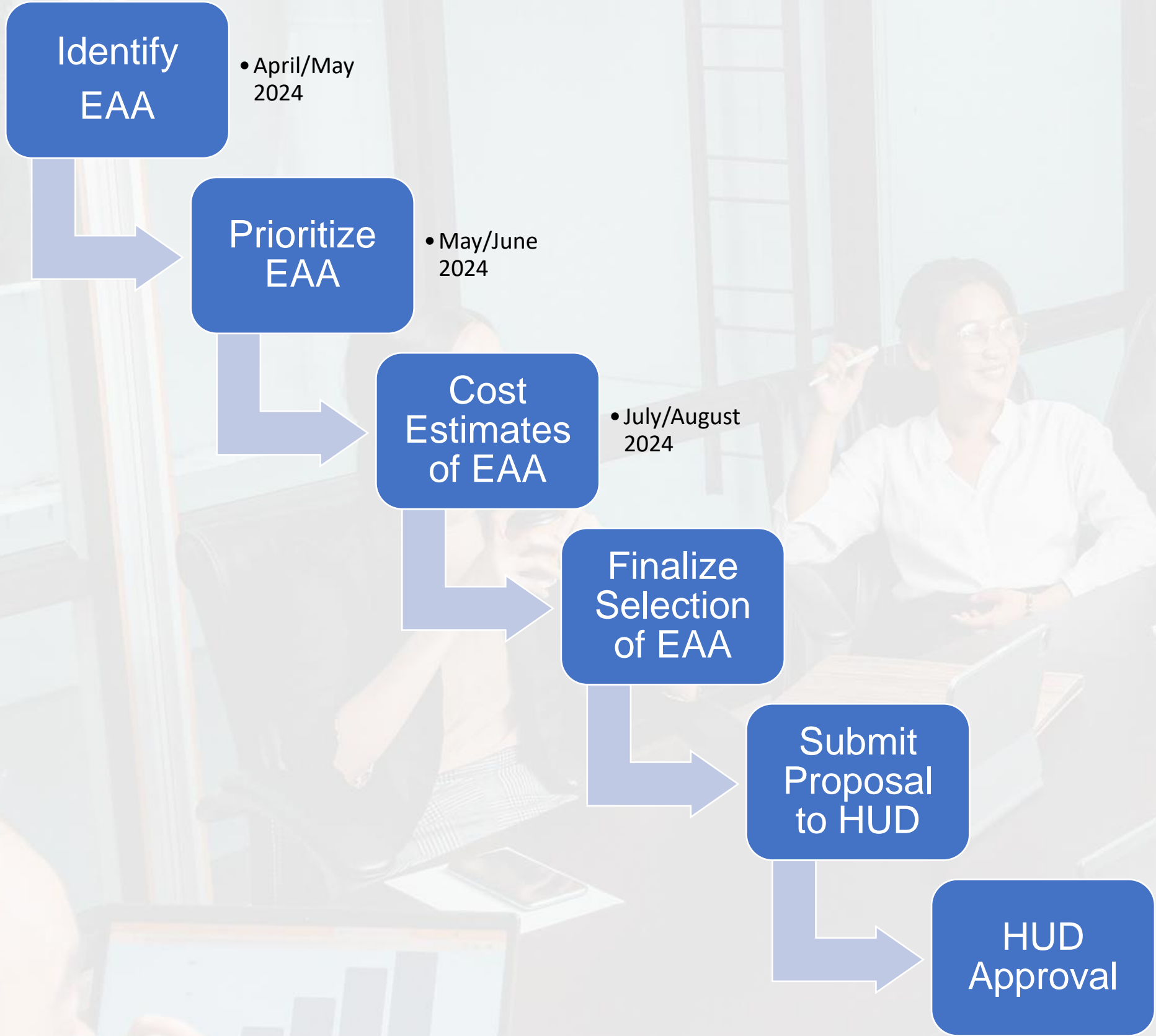
Early Action Activities & Approval Process

Grantees must secure hard approval and complete their early action activities within the first 20-4 months of their grant

- A description and justification of the early action activity
- Administrative details, including who is responsible for administering the plan
- A project budget that details the sources and uses for the early action activity
- A project's operational budget, if the project will continue to be operated after construction;
- A project schedule
- A part 58 environmental review, or documentation that the activity is Exempt;: Categorically Excluded not subject to part 58; or are Categorically Excluded subject to the part 58;
- A part 58 environmental review can take as long as six months
- HUD encourages the use of Early Action Activity Funds for grants instead of loans
- HUD typically does not approve the use of early action activity funds for land use on an interim basis, unless it is for the purposes or reclaiming and recycling vacant land



EAA Planning and Approval Process



Next Steps

- More Input from Stakeholders and other Task Force
- Prioritize EAA
- Cost Estimate of EAA
- Final EAA
- Submit EAA to HUD
- HUD Approval
- Design
- Procure



Questions and Answers



UNION SQUARE
A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

www.unionsquarechoice.com