



# Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Neighborhood Task Force

Union Square / Robert T. Wolfe Redevelopment  
February 2026, at 5 PM  
360 Orange Street, New Haven, CT






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# What is the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI)?

- HUD program integrating Housing, People and Neighborhood investments
- Focus on improving neighborhood conditions alongside housing redevelopment
- ECC and City of New Haven are joint applicants



**Choice Neighborhoods**  
Choice Neighborhoods program supports locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with distressed HUD housing through a comprehensive approach.

[Learn more about Choice Neighborhoods](#)

[Home](#) > [Programs](#) > Choice Neighborhoods

### Overview

Choice Neighborhoods awards competitive grants to redevelop severely distressed HUD housing, catalyze investments in the surrounding neighborhood, and improve the lives of residents of the HUD housing. To this end, Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals:

1. **Housing:** Replace severely distressed public and HUD-assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.
2. **People:** Improve the lives of residents living in the target housing related to their income and employment, health, and education outcomes; and
3. **Neighborhood:** Create strong, safe, sustainable and inclusive neighborhoods by investing in physical improvements which attract private investment, spur economic development and improve amenities and services for residents.

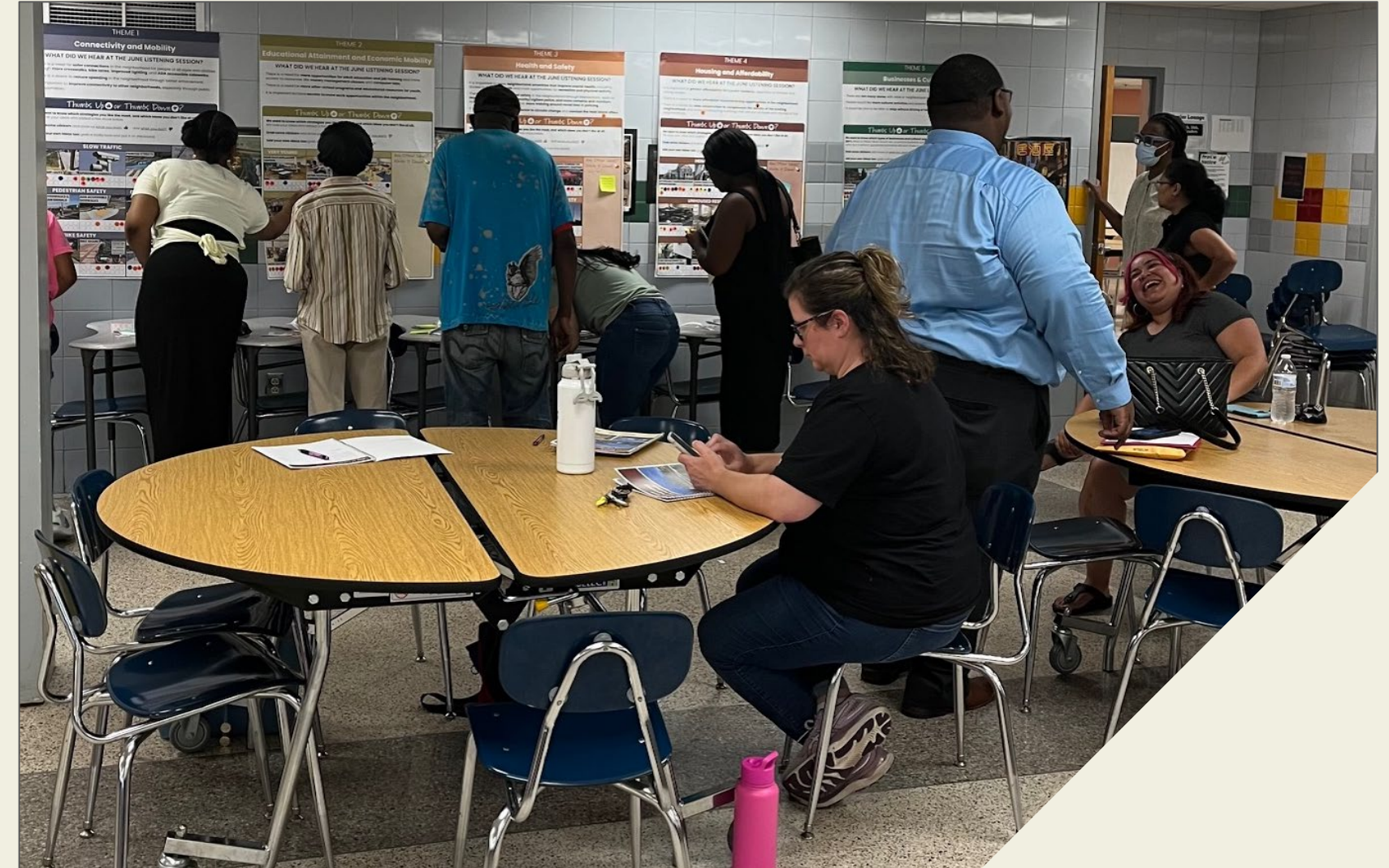
### Resources

Explore Choice Neighborhoods case studies, webinars, newsletters, and other technical assistance resources including promising practices in neighborhood revitalization, housing redevelopment, and improving resident outcomes in income, employment, health, and education.

- [Choice Neighborhood Newsletters](#)
- [Planning Grant Webinars - coming soon](#)
- [Supporting Economic Success and Stability Toolkit Series](#)
- [Shrinking the Digital Divide Toolkit](#)

# Role of the Neighborhood Task Force

- Guide and advise neighborhood investments
- Coordinate infrastructure, safety, and public realm improvements
- Ensure alignment with resident priorities and City plans



# Why Union Square?



- Historic disinvestment and infrastructure barriers
- Strategic location near Union Station and Downtown
- Major public and private investments underway

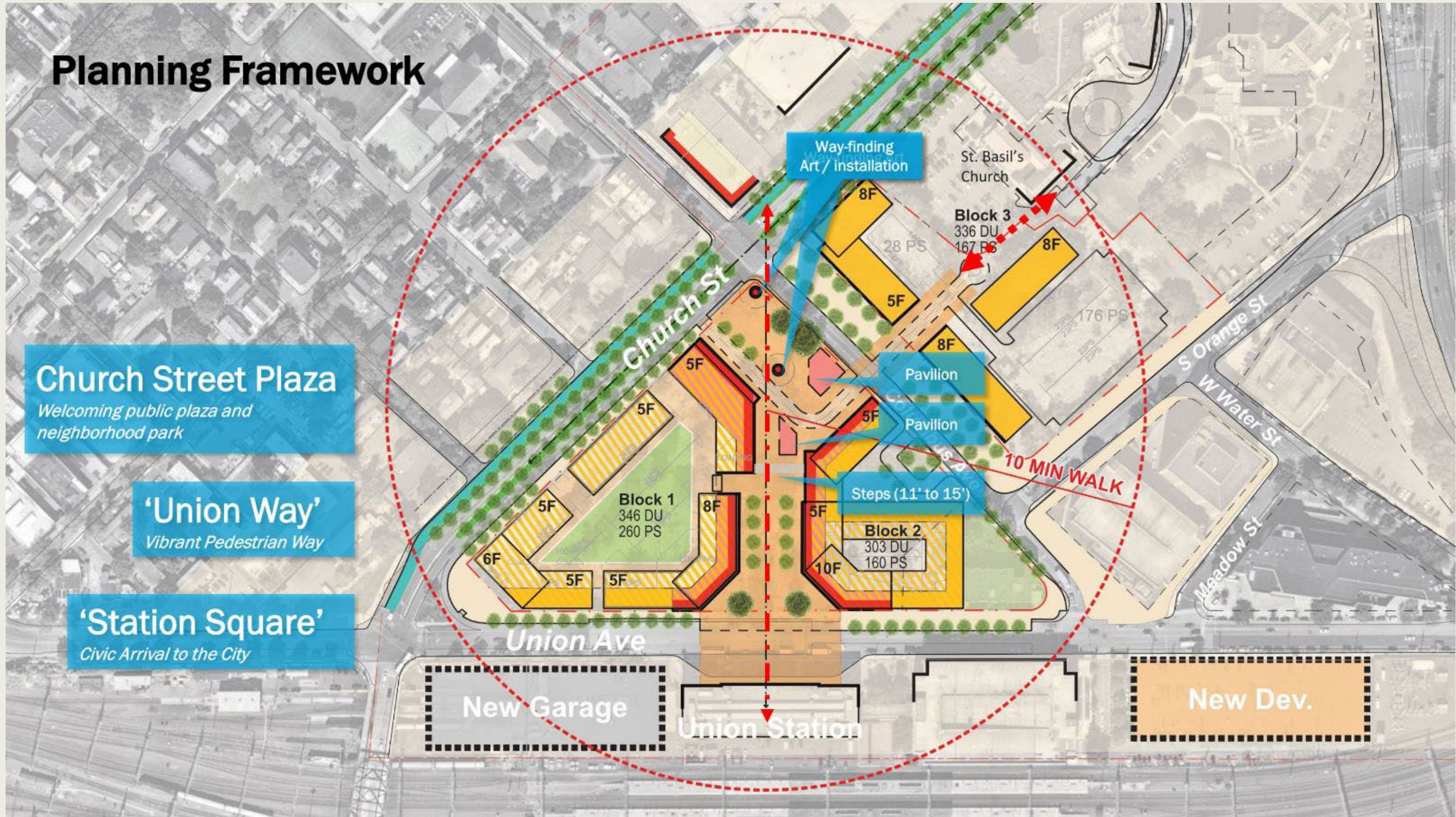
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UNION SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD CNI  
NEW HAVEN, CT

# Neighborhood Strategy Overview

- Reconnect Union Square to Downtown and the Hill
- Improve safety, walkability, and public spaces
- Support mixed-use, mixed-income redevelopment





# City Programs and Investments Supporting Union Square

- Route 34 / Downtown Crossing (TIGER-funded infrastructure reconnecting Downtown and the Hill)
- Hill-to-Downtown Community Plan (HUD-supported connectivity and land use strategy)
- New Haven Promise Zone (federal alignment for anti-poverty and economic mobility initiatives)
- Union Station Transit-Oriented Development initiatives
- Long Wharf Responsible Growth & Resilience Plan
- Square 10 and adjacent Downtown mixed-use redevelopment
- City capital investments in streets, utilities, and public realm improvements

# City Thermal Energy / District Energy Project

- City-led district thermal energy initiative serving Union Square and Downtown
- Supports decarbonization, climate resilience, and longterm utility cost stability
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels
- Provides shared heating and cooling infrastructure for new mixed-income development
- Aligns with City climate goals and State of Connecticut clean energy policies
- Functions as enabling infrastructure that supports housing redevelopment and neighborhood sustainability



# CommunityChange Initiative (CCI) Investments

- Up to \$2.6 million of CNI funds
  - Infill homeownership housing
  - Capital improvements to community facilities
    - Streetscape and pedestrian safety improvements
  - Lighting, wayfinding, and public realm upgrades
  - Connectivity to transit, jobs, and services

# Safety and Mobility Priorities

- Pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements
- Traffic calming and safer crossings
- Improved lighting and visibility



# Public Space & Amenities

- New and improved open spaces
- Activation of streets and ground-floor uses
- Neighborhood-serving retail and community facilities



# Coordination with City and Partners

- City of New Haven – Neighborhood Implementation Entity
- Coordination with Planning, Engineering, and Economic Development
- Alignment with Hill-to-Downtown and TOD plans

# Community Change Initiative (CCI)

- \$2.6 million allocated for Community Change Initiative (CCI) investments

## CCI funds will support:

- Pedestrian and traffic safety improvements
- Streetscape, lighting, and wayfinding upgrades
- Public space and neighborhood connectivity enhancements
- Investments are designed to directly support housing re-occupancy, resident safety, and long-term neighborhood integration

# What Happens Next?

## STEP 1

- HUD reviews and scores the application

## STEP 2

- If awarded, phased implementation begins

## STEP 3

- Ongoing resident and stakeholder engagement



**UNION SQUARE**  
A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

Questions and  
Answers?

*Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of New Haven residents everyday.*