

Housing and Urban Development Promise Zone and Choice Neighborhood Evaluation Call for PI Proposals

The UC Davis Center for Regional Change CRC is seeking applicants from faculty members (Senate or Federation) to serve as PI for two evaluation projects in Sacramento. The projects are associated with two major US Department of Housing and Urban Development initiatives of the Obama Administration: Promise Neighborhoods (in South Sacramento) and Choice Neighborhood (in the Twin Rivers community in north Sacramento).¹ The CRC has been invited by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SHRA), the lead agency for the projects, to serve as the evaluation partner for both grants. At a scale contingent on funding level, the evaluation will track the achievement of project outcomes including the processes of collaboration, improvements in neighborhood conditions, and leveraging of larger systems change.

The CRC has received one year of seed funding from the Office of the Provost to launch the evaluation processes. These seed funds include \$15,000 in faculty support (to be used for course outs, research expenses or other purposes) for the PI as well as a part time CRC data analyst and outreach coordinator for a total budget of \$70,000 over one year. The CRC will also provide grants management and administrative support and staff work space. UC Davis expects that SHRA will be leading the fund development efforts to bring the evaluations to scale over the life of the projects (10 years in the case of the Promise Zone and 7 years for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative.) While the project budgets with SHRA have yet to be determined, the expectation is that faculty line item would be the same or higher over the course of the projects. The project will begin in January 2016.

The role of the of PI will be as follows:

- Lead the development and implementation of an evaluation framework for both the Promise Zone and Choice Neighborhood;
- Supervise the data analyst and outreach coordinator;
- Represent UC Davis in the leadership teams of the Promise Zone and Choice Neighborhoods;
- Engage other UC Davis faculty and students in the projects;
- Assist in fund raising to support the on-going operations of the projects.

¹ Choice Neighborhood Initiative: <http://www.shra.org/ChoiceNeighborhoodsInitiative.aspx>
Promise Zone Initiative: <http://www.shra.org/SacramentoPromiseZone.aspx>

Qualifications

- Expertise in housing and urban development policy
- Expertise in evaluation of complex community development projects
- Strong networks with Sacramento area policy, housing, and community organizations
- Experience working with diverse communities
- Candidates may Senate or Federation academics

Application Process:

Submit 1-2 page letter of interest to CRC Director Jonathan London by November 12th care of Valerie Chiappone (vchiappone@ucdavis.edu) describing qualifications on the above criteria, and visions for the project. Letters will be reviewed by the Faculty Executive Committee of the CRC and top candidates will be contacted for more information if needed. Decisions will be made by December 4th. Please contact Jonathan London with any questions.