

News Release

Ilene Shapiro—Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



ILENE SHAPIRO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Summit County Provides \$100,000 Grant for Housing Redevelopment in Summit Lake

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—On Monday, April 26, 2021, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and County Council approved a grant agreement with Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) to provide \$100,000 for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods Program. The County's grant will serve as one of several local community matches.

HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Program aids in the replacement of distressed public and assisted housing with high quality, mixed-income housing that is well managed and responsive to the needs of a neighborhood. The program takes a holistic approach to neighborhood revitalization by focusing on attracting public and private investment, and fostering safety, employment and education with the goal of empowering people and neighborhoods.

"Every Summit County resident should have quality and affordable housing, a good job and a strong sense of community. We are committed to supporting efforts to make sure all our residents have these opportunities," said Executive Shapiro. "AMHA and its partners, including neighborhood residents, are working together to create a development plan that will revitalize and empower the Summit Lake neighborhood. Our grant will help them complete this important process."

In 2020, HUD awarded AMHA and the City of Akron, the co-grantee, a \$450,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to develop a comprehensive resident and community-led plan to revitalize and transform the Summit Lake neighborhood and the housing authority's 239-unit public housing development, Summit Lake Apartments. The resulting Transformation Plan will be a blueprint for future investments. The county's grant will support this planning process.

"We are extremely grateful for the County's investment in the future of Summit Lake and the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Process," Said Brian Gage, Executive Director of the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority. "The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant is an important step in the continued revitalization of the Summit Lake neighborhood. We know that Summit Lake is a community with a rich history, unique identity and passionate residents, and we are honored to be able to continue the work with the support of the County."

Following the completion of the Transformation Plan by December 2022, AMHA intends to apply for HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant. If chosen, the housing authority may be eligible for up to \$30,000,000 to implement the Transformation Plan.

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