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Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) Dissolves Neighborhood Allies to provide support to CDBG-eligible communities

PITTSBURGH, PA (April 12, 2016)--The Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC)--which was formed in 1980 to boost capacity in Pittsburgh's community organizations and played a prominent role in shaping the nascent community-based movement--has ceased operations, effective March 31, 2016.

“The community development landscape has evolved and changed over the past three decades. Our board recognized the need to consider what unique role CTAC was providing, and if those services were now being duplicated by other organizations. We determined the most responsible action was to dissolve CTAC so finite resources could be allocated to other intermediaries serving our region’s neighborhoods and communities for increased efficiencies,” said Stephanie Miller, chair of the CTAC board of directors.

When it was founded, CTAC was the only intermediary available to provide capacity-building and technical assistance to emerging neighborhood organizations throughout the city. By 2016, more than ten nonprofit and public agencies, as well as a number of private consultants, provide some type of technical assistance to community development groups. One of CTAC's most successful efforts was the Core Series of eight workshops to train board and staff of small nonprofits. Launched in 1993, the training modules ranged from strategic planning and financial management to marketing and media relations. Dozens of no-budget and small-budget organizations and hundreds of individuals in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County received Core Series training at no cost to them.

In recent years, CTAC's activities focused upon providing consultation and services to CDBG-eligible communities. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a program of HUD that funds local community revitalization activities. The CDBG-eligible neighborhoods in the City of Pittsburgh are noted [in this map](#).

A "Who's Who" of Pittsburgh's community development leadership has been connected with CTAC through the years. Many former CTAC executive directors are recognized experts in Pittsburgh and around the country, including David Feehan (Civitas Consultants in Washington, D.C.), Denys Candy (Director for Community Collaboration at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts), Charles Peterson (First Niagara Bank), Mark T. Fatla, Esq. (Northside Leadership Conference), and Karen Brean (Brean Associates). Board leadership echoes the same level of community accomplishment with board presidents such as Moe Coleman, Rick St. John, Karen LaFrance, Hugh Brannan, Howard Slaughter, Skip Schwab, and Stephanie Miller.

With the sun-setting of CTAC, Neighborhood Allies will assume the role of providing technical assistance to any CDBG-eligible communities formerly served by CTAC. Neighborhood Allies is an established nonprofit organization that supports people, organizations, and partnerships committed to creating and maintaining thriving neighborhoods.

"We will continue to build upon the principles of CTAC, while creating a stronger and more productive community development system." says Presley Gillespie, President of Neighborhood Allies. "Community capacity building is about igniting the passion, commitment, skills and resources in our neighborhoods. We look forward to leveraging the CDBG funding with private funding to inspire, strengthen and expand our community's capacity to build, deliver and sustain inclusive neighborhood change agendas." More information can be found on the [Neighborhood Allies website](#).

About Neighborhood Allies

Neighborhood Allies is committed to improving resident leadership and organizational capacity of the community development system in Pittsburgh by providing leadership, and a network of resources including financial, human, institutional and organizational capital to support organizations and individuals striving to create and maintain thriving neighborhoods.

Through this expanded role in Community Capacity Building and Technical Assistance, Neighborhood Allies will continue to invest in neighborhood leadership, talent and ultimately healthier organizations across the city, but also build stronger networks through increased collaboration, listening closely to residents, and tailoring investments in collaborative projects and programs in our neighborhoods.

About Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC)

CTAC was founded in 1980 as a nonprofit to provide technical assistance for community development corporations (CDCs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in Pittsburgh. Its work included helping organizations establish strong financial controls, develop management literacy, and build internal capacity. In the early 1980s, CTAC was the only resource available to community organizations in need of help with organizing, incorporating, setting up their books, writing proposals, and developing marketing materials. Some of the organizations served by CTAC during its 35-year history include East Liberty Development, Inc., Northside Leadership Conference, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group, Pittsburgh Housing Authority, Washington County Council on Economic Development, and hundreds of community-based and nonprofit organizations. The CTAC board of directors dissolved the organization in 2016.

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