

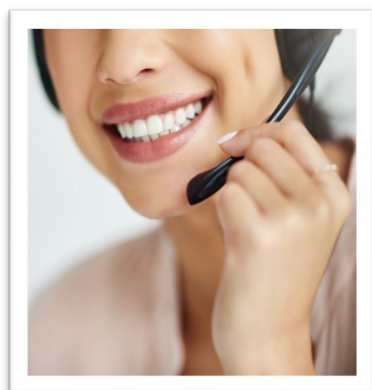


Neighborhood Compass Newsletter

Quarter 1, 2023

A quarterly update from your U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance team

Welcome to the first 2023 edition of the *Neighborhood Compass Newsletter*! The Promise Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) team proudly launches a newsletter format that features [solutions from Promise grantees](#) to benefit the network of place-based collective impact initiatives. In this issue, readers will [meet the fiscal year \(FY\) 2022 grantee cohort](#) and the newest members of the [U.S. Department of Education \(ED\) Promise team](#). As always, the newsletter includes the [latest news about grantees](#), [updates on TTA activities](#), and other [helpful resources](#). We welcome grantee stories to highlight and feedback to improve the *Neighborhood Compass Newsletter* through your site liaisons or PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com.



North Hartford Ascend Pipeline's Child Development Infoline



Leflore Promise Community's early childhood program, Promise School



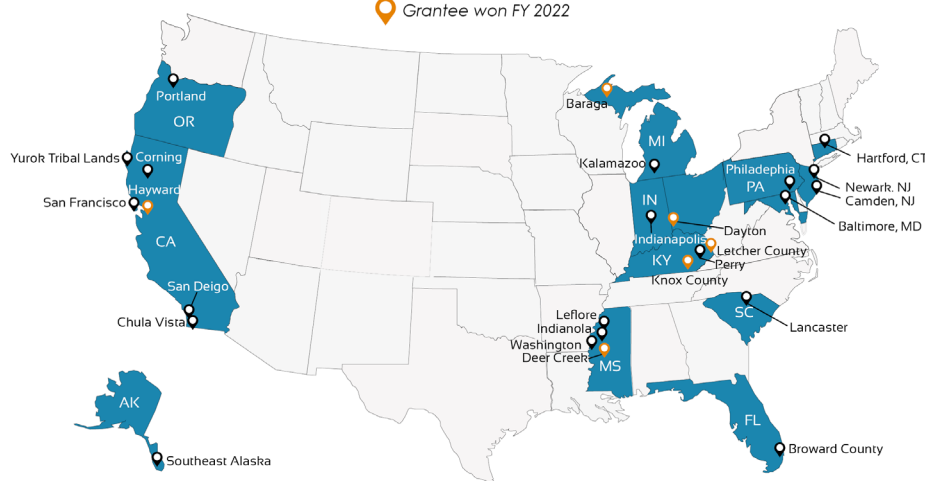
Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood's one-of-a-kind Mi Escuelita Therapeutic Preschool



Promise Neighborhoods TTA Highlights

27 ^{14 States} Promise Neighborhoods

Grantee won FY 2022





Have you met the FY 2022 Promise Neighborhoods cohort?

This year, four neighborhoods joined our Promise Neighborhoods network with 5-year implementation grants!

1. **Downtown Hayward Promise Neighborhood (DHPN)** will serve the 11 schools in the Hayward Unified School District, located in the Downtown Hayward community in northern California. DHPN will use the Hayward Promise Neighborhoods Guiding Framework to plan its cradle-to-career pipeline of services, focused on four principles: healing, connecting, persisting, and actualizing. DHPN joins the Hayward Promise Neighborhoods consortium, led by California State University, East Bay.
2. **Hope Zone Promise Neighborhood (Hope Zone)** focuses on 3 schools and 17 neighborhoods in urban Northwest Dayton, Ohio. The Hope Zone's pipeline services encompass 12 core components that address the greatest needs and gaps in the area, as reported by the Omega Community Development Corporation (the Black-led backbone organization) and community members. The Hope Zone is motivated by hope for 6,700 children and the absolute necessity of change for their families.
3. **The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Baraga County Promise Neighborhood (KBICBCPN)** is in Baraga County and the L'Anse Indian Reservation in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. KBICBCPN partners with Baraga Area Schools and L'Anse Area Schools, located on and adjacent to Tribal lands, respectively. Native and indigenous students account for 27 percent of enrollment in the two partner districts. To better support students, KBICBCPN will place indigenous education advocates and Ojibwe language program instructors in the two school districts to develop indigenous cultural competency training modules to build staff capacity.
4. **Letcher Promise Neighborhood (LPN)** includes 10 schools in Letcher County, Kentucky, from Jenkins Independent School District and Letcher County School District. LPN aims to transform these schools into "bright spots" where service providers build positive relationships with students and offer expanded learning opportunities by training school personnel, partners, students, and families in evidence-informed practices. LPN joins two Promise Neighborhoods in Knox and Perry Promise that Partners for Rural Impact (formerly Partners for Education at Berea College) also leads.

Please congratulate the FY 2016 extension grant winners, Delta Health Alliance and Partners for Rural Impact for **Deer Creek** and **Knox Promise Neighborhoods**, respectively. Each grantee received an additional 2 years of funding, and we are excited to continue learning and working with them!



Do you know the newest members of the ED Promise Neighborhoods Team?

Elson Nash and Rich Wilson continue to lead the growing Promise Neighborhood portfolio at ED. Karen Ford-Jackson (karen.ford-jackson@ed.gov) and James Guitard (james.guitard@ed.gov) have joined the team as program officers paired with grantees. Stephen Kostyo (stephen.kostyo@ed.gov) applies his experience as an educator to a policy advisor role as a Federation of American Scientists Impact Fellow. The Promise TTA team sends its sincerest appreciation to Richard Kress, who remains at ED but has transitioned off the Promise



Neighborhoods team. He provided unwavering support and commitment to Promise Neighborhoods with an incredible eye for detail.



Elson Nash



Richard Wilson



Karen Ford-Jackson



James Guitard



Stephen Kostyo



Promising Solutions

Which solutions do Promise Neighborhoods find most effective in early childhood?

Discover North Hartford's Child Development Infoline (FY 2021 grantee). [North Hartford Ascend Pipeline](#) (Ascend) promotes strategies to support young children's development by prioritizing early detection and support services. Ascend acts as a liaison between families and the services that can help them. One of Ascend's solutions to support this strategy is United Way of Connecticut's [Child Development Infoline](#) program. The solution supports pregnant individuals and the healthy growth and development of children before, during, and after birth through age 5. Child Development Care Coordinators help with general child development questions, challenging behaviors, disability- and health-related issues, pregnancy support, and much more by phone. Child Development Infoline provides free developmental screenings; information on child development; and simple, fun activities parents can use to support their child's developmental needs. For more information, contact Jacquelyn Rose at JRose01@connecticutchildrens.org.

Learn about Leflore's Promise School (FY 2021 grantee). Leflore Promise Community (LPC) is one of three [Delta Health Alliance](#) (DHA) Promise communities in Mississippi. As a FY 2021 grantee, LPC builds on the successful solutions and lessons learned from DHA's Deer Creek and Indianola Promise Communities, such as Promise School. Promise School is a 6-week school-based summer camp for incoming kindergartners. Summer literacy and numeracy interventions help students acclimate to the school system. Young learners start with uppercase and lowercase recognition, print awareness, phonological and phonemic awareness, and receptive and oral language for communication. The summer school program engages students in novel learning environments while working to improve students' self-concept and control over emotions. Young learners cultivate positive relationships with adults and peers. Since DHA began conducting Promise School in 2010, the school has helped over 1,300 children, and it will reach students in LPC starting summer 2023. For more information, contact Allison Poindexter at apoindexter@deltahearthalliance.org.

Read about Chula Vista's one-of-a-kind Mi Escuelita Therapeutic Preschool (FY 2012 grantee). [Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood](#) (CVPromise) has been instrumental in connecting Chula Vista's most vulnerable families with early learning solutions. One of CVPromise's solutions is [Mi Escuelita Therapeutic Preschool](#), the only school of its kind in southern California. The school is a free, bilingual, full-day, year-round therapeutic preschool for children affected by family violence. Mi Escuelita provides specialized services for 3–5-year-olds and their families, including developmental and behavioral screenings, parenting groups, and unique curriculums designed to support the specialized needs of the students. Since 2006, Mi Escuelita has served over 700 families. For more information, contact Jose Mireles at jose.mireles@csbcs.org.



In the News

Which Promise Neighborhoods made headlines?

Hayward Promise Neighborhood (FY 2017 grantee): Mark Salinas, former community resident engagement specialist in Hayward Promise Neighborhood, was sworn into office as mayor of the City of Hayward in January. [Salinas is focused on making Hayward an “Education City,”](#) ensuring educational institutions and the city work together.

North Hartford Ascend Pipeline (FY 2021 grantee): Paul Dworkin, project director of North Hartford Ascend Pipeline, authored an [op-ed outlining the importance of establishing trust in the community to strengthen community engagement efforts](#). The op-ed highlights examples of strategies to ensure community residents, organizations, and leaders have trust in the process to build the Ascend pipeline.

Mission Promise Neighborhood (FY 2012 extension grantee): [Richard Raya, chief strategy officer for Mission Economic Development Agency, recently accepted a 3-year term on the StriveTogether board of directors.](#)

South Ward Promise Neighborhoods (FY 2017 grantee): [BRICK Education Network and South Ward Promise Neighborhood partnered with Macy’s for their third annual coat giveaway.](#) The partners distributed 750 winter coats, as well as hats and gloves, to South Ward families. Free health screenings were also available at the event.

Leflore Promise Neighborhood and Knox Promise Neighborhood (FY 2022 grantee and FY 2016 extension grantee, respectively): [U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona visited Eastern Kentucky in January to announce new Promise Neighborhoods grants](#) and discuss the impact of the grants on reducing community violence and promoting cradle-to-career efforts in low-income areas.

Indianola Promise Community (FY 2017 grantee): [Survey teams of DHA staff and Indianola community workers completed 493 Neighborhood Surveys over 6 days](#) in November 2022—the highest number obtained in its 10-year history!



TTA Talk

What is the Promise TTA team planning and curating for grantees?



[Visit the Promise Neighborhood Google calendar](#) for dates and descriptions of all upcoming events.

Next quarter: We look forward to seeing you at the following events!

Data and Performance Measures Community of Practice (CoP) meets the first Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. (ET). Interested in the Data CoP or proposed CoPs, such as a role-alike CoP or Racial Equity and Belonging CoP? A role-alike CoP would convene project directors and their deputies to create a space for Promise Neighborhood leaders to surface and address challenges with their peers. The Racial Equity and Belonging CoP will focus on how organizations can structure programming to fit the specific needs of their communities and



create a sense of belonging that will assist with client retention. Email PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com to share your CoP ideas, for more information, or to volunteer for steering committees that shape CoPs.

April 4, 2023, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. (ET): Leadership Development Course Orientation

FY 2022 grantees will join the Center for the Study of Social Policy to begin the Leadership Development Course. Please contact Juanita Gallion juanita.gallion@cssp.org for more information.

April 11, 2023, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. (ET): FY 2022 Grantee Needs Assessment Kickoff

The Promise TTA team and FY 2022 grantees will launch the needs assessment process, which helps new grantees start strong in Year 1 by— (1) building relationships between grantees, partners, and site liaisons; (2) reinforcing the main components of the Promise Neighborhoods model; and (3) setting priorities for TTA support to build a strong, sustainability pipeline of solutions. Email PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com for more information.

April 13, 2023, 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. (ET): Building the Cradle in a Cradle-to-Career Initiative Webinar

This webinar will showcase three opportunities for Promise Neighborhoods to promote kindergarten readiness and provide a framework to support Promise Neighborhoods' early care and education solutions. Join San Diego Promise Neighborhood and Perry Promise Neighborhood to discuss topics such as capacity building, evidence-based approaches for accountability, and addressing the pandemic's impact on programming and assessment. Email PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com for more information.

Looking ahead: Start planning for these events

December 2023: Promise Neighborhoods National Network Conference

The 2023 conference will be held in person in the Washington, DC, area in December. Be on the lookout for additional details from the planning team in the coming weeks. The Promise TTA team looks forward to meeting many of you at this year's conference, with opportunities for casual conversations in the hallways, after sessions, or at local restaurants! If you have any questions about the event, please reach out to PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com.

Helpful resources

Building the Cradle in a Cradle-to-Career Initiative: Three Opportunities for Promise Neighborhoods to Promote Kindergarten Readiness

Early care and education (ECE) programs are crucial for positive educational and developmental outcomes of children. Authors Megan Gallagher and Shubhangi Kumari provide a framework to support Promise Neighborhoods' ECE work, specifically preparing young children for school in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Access the ECE brief on the Promise website.](#)

Expanding Data Use to Support More Effective Post-High School Transitions: Measuring Postsecondary Success in Promise Neighborhoods

Authors Sonia Torres Rodríguez and Elizabeth Burton showcase Promise Neighborhood grantees that successfully collected and reported data on high school graduates who obtained a postsecondary degree, certification, or credential. The brief also explores strategies to assess the employment outcomes of youth in Promise Neighborhoods. It includes guidance and best practices on expanding data use and capacity for Promise Neighborhood grantees and peers to improve their measurement of postsecondary engagement and success. [Access the postsecondary brief on the Promise website.](#)



Webinars you may have missed

Welcome Webinars for FY 2022 grantees

Promise TTA providers welcomed FY 2022 grantees to the “neighborhood” with an overview of TTA activities, a review of foundational concepts, and time to get to know new and experienced grantees from across the country. Access both webinar recordings:

- February 15: [Welcome Webinar 1, Key Concepts and FY 2022 TTA Overview](#)
- March 21: [Welcome Webinar 2, Scorecard and Results-Based Accountability](#)

Recharge Webinar

Each year our Promise Neighborhood family grows, and we recharge by convening TTA providers and grantees. New and experienced Promise Neighborhoods networked in small groups, reflected on 2022 TTA, and planned for 2023 TTA. [Access the Recharge Webinar recording.](#)

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