



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

**M**oving into autumn means schools are back in session in Promise Neighborhoods across the country. It also means Promise TTA staff will be traveling to conduct needs assessments with fiscal year (FY) 2022 and FY 23 grantees. Site liaisons will visit FY 21 grantees in person for the first time to support their TTA needs. The Promise TTA team and grantees are preparing for the [annual conference, planned for December 11–13, 2023, in the Washington, DC, area](#). In this issue, Knox, South Ward, and Broward UP Promise Neighborhoods share [college and career solutions](#). As always, the newsletter includes the [latest news about grant recipients, updates on TTA activities](#), and other [helpful resources](#).



*Knox Promise Neighborhood implemented a Postsecondary Transition Program that helped over 200 students attend college.*



*South Ward Promise Neighborhood partners with Gateway U to help residents earn their bachelor's degree efficiently and at an affordable cost.*



*Broward UP Promise Neighborhood's Family Navigators help high school students with college and financial aid applications and provide summer bridge programming.*



## Promise Neighborhoods TTA Highlights

### *Are you ready for the Promise Neighborhoods and Full-Service Community Schools National Network Conference?*

The 2023 conference is titled *Engaging Communities and Schools to Promote Equity*. The conference will be held **in person** from **December 11 to 13, 2023**, at the [Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport](#) in Arlington, Virginia. We anticipate 450 participants from Promise Neighborhoods and Full-Service Community Schools.

- Preconference programming (by invitation only) is scheduled for December 11.



- Full conference programming (e.g., plenary sessions, breakout sessions, networking opportunities) is scheduled for December 12 and 13.
  - The number of representatives each program team may send to the conference will be limited. The opening and closing plenary sessions on December 12 and 13 will be live streamed.
- We are planning a “neighborhood walk,” where program teams will have the opportunity to display their work through data visualizations and other materials while networking with other attendees December 12 and 13.

Information about registration, team size limits, hotel room booking information, and the conference agenda will be available soon!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact [PNFSCconference@insightpolicyresearch.com](mailto:PNFSCconference@insightpolicyresearch.com). The Promise TTA team looks forward to seeing everybody in December!



## Promising Strategies

*Which strategies do Promise Neighborhoods find most promising in College and Career?*

**Knox Promise Neighborhood’s Promise Scholars Postsecondary Transition Program (FY 16/Extension).** The [Knox Promise Neighborhood](#) (FY 16) developed the Promise Scholars Postsecondary Transition Program. The program supported students, many being first-generation college students, and their families to ease their transition from high school to college. In April 2019, Knox Promise Neighborhood hosted a kickoff event to recruit Promise Scholars. Students and families interacted with college staff from the six partner colleges, met other students planning to attend those colleges, and began to develop a sense of community among other potential Promise Scholars and their families. Supports for families included a panel of parents whose children were actively pursuing their postsecondary education and access to Postsecondary Navigators who discussed financial aid, housing, and safety at their students’ colleges of choice. Knox Promise Neighborhood partnered with six local colleges to provide a full-time Postsecondary Navigator at each campus. The Postsecondary Navigators assisted students and their families in a variety of ways, from financial aid applications to how to do laundry. From 2019 to 2022, over 200 students completed the program. For more information, please contact Amy Floyd at [Amy.Floyd@partnersrural.org](mailto:Amy.Floyd@partnersrural.org).

**South Ward Promise Neighborhood’s Partner (SWPN), Gateway U (FY 17).** [SWPN](#) partner [Gateway U](#) helps students earn their bachelor’s degree online in as little as 2 years at an affordable cost. Gateway U partners with Southern New Hampshire University and helps students continue working while studying with a flexible schedule and one-on-one support. In response to the nationwide teacher shortage, Gateway U in partnership with SWPN launched their innovative Teacher Pathway Program to address the teacher shortage crisis in Newark this summer. The Teacher Pathway Program is a transformative initiative that enables New Jersey paraprofessionals and other school staff to earn their teaching certification affordably and efficiently. This program offers community members a pathway to overcome financial and structural barriers to becoming a licensed teacher. SWPN’s vision extends beyond training teachers; they also aim to build a community of educators who are deeply connected to Newark. By offering personalized academic support and focusing on an equitable educator workforce, SWPN believes the Teacher Pathway Program will lift the city by investing in the people who know it best. For more information, please contact Justine Asante at [jasante@brickeducation.org](mailto:jasante@brickeducation.org).



**Broward UP Promise Neighborhoods' Latest Advancements in College and Career Strategies (FY 21).** [Broward UP](#) offers many promising strategies in the college and career pipeline to aid students on the path to higher education. The CARE Program offers high school students the opportunity to earn certificates in a variety of fields such as health sciences, technology, management, and transportation. Family Navigators and mentors support interested high school students by providing information on potential college pathways. The transformative Bridge program provides high school seniors with comprehensive support, application aid, peer mentoring, and a laptop loan program to bridge technological disparities. To aid community members in cultivating thriving careers, Broward UP offers the Workforce Development Program, which provides community members certificate trainings, technical courses, resume writing workshops, and mock interviews. For more information, please contact Berlanga Gallimor at [bgallimo@broward.edu](mailto:bgallimo@broward.edu).



## In the News

### *Which Promise Neighborhoods made headlines?*

**Promise Heights Promise Neighborhood (FY 18 grantee).** [Back to school in Maryland: Educators seek to bring energy, excitement as students return to class.](#) Baltimore City mayor Brandon Scott kicked off the first ever “Mayor’s Attendance Challenge” on August 28, 2023, to boost attendance and lower chronic absenteeism this school year. Booker T. Washington Middle School, located within the Promise Heights footprint, was selected to host the first day kickoff as the school led all city middle schools in improving attendance last year. The press conference covered how the mayor will invest in city-wide attendance efforts. Promise Heights looks forward to engaging closely in the initiative this coming year.

**Hope Zone Promise Neighborhood (FY 22 grantee).** [VOICES: Target capital, accelerate partnerships, center those affected.](#) Geoffrey Canada of Harlem Children’s Zone authored a recent idea outlining the value of community partnership. He highlighted Learn to Earn Dayton, the NorthWest Dayton Partnership, and Omega Community Development Corporation (CDC), who is the lead grantee of Hope Zone. With continued support from Learn to Earn Dayton, Omega CDC will implement a comprehensive strategy aligned with the residents’ vision through the NorthWest Dayton Partnership with the goal of bringing hope to 3,400 children and 6,700 families in 17 neighborhoods.

**California Promise Neighborhood Network** [State Advocacy.](#) The California Promise Neighborhoods secured state funding to support the continuation of this important work. All face the closeout of federal funding in 2023. A \$12 million appropriation will provide 3 years of operating support grants in the amount of \$1 million each to Corning Promise, Mission Promise, Hayward Promise, and Chula Vista Promise.



## TTA Talk

### *What is the Promise TTA team planning and curating for grant recipients?*



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

### **Next quarter: Looking forward to seeing you at the following events**

#### *Communities of Practice (CoPs)*

**The Data and Performance Measurement CoP** will continue meeting the first Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. ET and follow its theme for the year, focusing on one or two Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) indicators each month. During the September meeting, participants discussed postsecondary GPRAs, and experienced grantees noted that colleges certify their enrollments in September. This means October is a great time to request postsecondary enrollment data from the National Student Clearinghouse. Participants also indicated they use and share code for postsecondary GRPA reporting in [R](#), a free statistical software. If grantees or their partners are interested in joining a subcommittee dedicated to code-swapping and adapting, they can contact [PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com](mailto:PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com). If interested in participating in the monthly CoP sessions, [join the CoP](#) on Zoom.

- Wednesday, October 4, 2–3 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, November 1, 2–3 p.m. ET

**Racial Equity and Belonging CoP.** A steering committee composed of Promise colleagues at South Ward, Albina Rockwood, Mission, and STEP AK have developed the agenda for this CoP. BC Echohawk, Tia Fletcher, and Sarah Giordano from the Promise TTA team provide CoP support. Each month, participants discuss the tools and strategies Promise Neighborhoods use to confront and address racism, how to approach work that is mindful of the historical and current contexts and systems, and how to get this important work done. Questions the CoP addresses include (1) How do Promise Neighborhoods help people in positions of power, such as teachers and administrators, see their biases and deficit mindsets and consider how they impact their teaching and students? (2) What have other Promise Neighborhoods done to engage youth in these conversations as meaningful agents to transform youth feedback into action? [Register on Zoom](#) to join the series. Please contact [PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com](mailto:PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com) with questions.

- Wednesday, October 18, 3–4 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, November 15, 3–4 p.m. ET

**Promise Leadership CoP.** Steering committee members from Mission, Indy East, Broward UP, and Lancaster Promise Neighborhoods met in May 2023 to kick off this new space for Promise Neighborhood leaders (project directors and their deputies). With support from Promise TTA staff, they created a community where members can address challenges with their peers. In June and July, CoP members explored the topic of Community Advisory Boards (CABs), including this [CAB toolkit](#) from the Urban Institute. In August, leaders discussed two topics, governance and partnerships, starting with a review of the [Building a Culture of Results toolkit](#). Interested in joining the ongoing series? Please contact [PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com](mailto:PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com) to register.



- Because of the Yom Kippur observance September 25, the Leadership COP met a week earlier than usual: Monday, September 18, 3 p.m. ET
- Monday, October 23, 3–4 p.m. ET
- Monday, November 27, 3–4 p.m. ET

### *Virtual Courses*

**Leadership Development Program.** FY 22 and 23 grantees began the Leadership Development Program this fall, providing an opportunity for cross-learning among the newest Promise Neighborhoods teams to advance their results using a set of tools, frameworks, and opportunities to learn from peers over the course of seven virtual sessions. The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) introduced participants to various skills, tools, and methods to support making progress on indicators and help participants apply them to their work. For this group of grantees, CSSP formed two cohorts and staggered sessions in fall 2023 and winter 2024. Contact [juanita.gallion@cssp.org](mailto:juanita.gallion@cssp.org) for course details.

**Community Engagement for Community Change.** Community engagement is a critical aspect of a successful Promise Neighborhood strategy. This virtual course provides an opportunity for Promise Neighborhood grantees to learn about the process of community engagement as a building block for community change. The course consists of four sessions covering motivation for community engagement, selection of a policy issue, identification of individuals directly affected, and development of an action plan for engaging community members and policymakers. StriveTogether Network facilitates the sessions, each providing a reflection activity about what participants have learned from course facilitators and peers. Interested in joining this series? Please contact [PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com](mailto:PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com) to register.

- Wednesday, September 27, 4:00–5:15 p.m. ET
- Tuesday, October 17, 1:30–2:45 p.m. ET
- Thursday, November 2, 2:00–3:15 p.m. ET
- Friday, November 17, 3:00–4:15 p.m. ET

**Sustaining the Infrastructure of Promise Neighborhoods.** This virtual course explores ways to sustain important functions that grantees have developed to support their Promise Neighborhoods, including data, communications, and convening capacity. In this course, grantees share and learn from their peers about sustainability strategies, and hear from other experts, including FourPoint Education Partners, about additional approaches and considerations. If you have any questions about the details of this virtual course, please email Megan Gallagher ([mgallagher@urban.org](mailto:mgallagher@urban.org)) or Kaela Girod ([kgirod@urban.org](mailto:kgirod@urban.org)).

- Thursday, September 21, 3–4:30 p.m. ET
- Thursday, October 19, 3–4:30 p.m. ET
- Thursday, November 16, 3–4:30 p.m. ET

### **Looking ahead: Start planning for these events**

**Monday, December 11–Wednesday, December 13: Promise Neighborhoods and Full-Service Community School National Network Conference.** We are excited to announce this year's Promise Neighborhoods and Full-Service Community Schools National Network Conference, *Engaging Communities and Schools to Promote Equity*.



## Helpful Resources

### [Equitable Compensation for Community Engagement Guidebook \(August 2023\)](#)

Mel Langless, Promise TTA provider, is one of the authors of this [toolkit](#) that includes practical guidance and approaches for creating an equitable compensation plan for community-partnered research projects. The Leadership CoP spent more than one session discussing community advisory boards, sharing strategies and challenges that included establishing equitable compensation, and enjoying a preview of the guidebook from Promise TTA provider Mel Langless.

### [Expanding Data Use to Support More Effective Post-High School Transitions: Measuring Postsecondary Success in Promise Neighborhoods](#)

Elizabeth Burton, TTA provider, is one of the authors of this [brief](#) that focuses on Promise Neighborhood grantees that collect and report data on high school graduates who obtain 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.

### [Measuring Performance: A Guidance Document for Promise Neighborhoods on Collecting Data and Reporting Results](#)

This [guidance document](#) outlines the U.S. Department of Education’s required GRPA indicators that Promise Neighborhood implementation grantees must report on as part of their federal funding. This document also recommends data collection strategies, sources, and methods for the Promise Neighborhood community at large, including the collection and tracking of demographic, family, and service delivery characteristics.

## You may have missed ...

### [Developmental Pathways Webinar](#)

This webinar discussed key topics in the [Developmental Pathways tool](#) including the conditions or “solutions” needed for a successful Promise Neighborhood, stages of development of a Promise Neighborhood, and milestones for each solution at each stage. Peers Jacquelyn Rose (Ascend PN), Michael Hughes (Perry PN), and Rachel Morineau (San Diego PN) served as panelists on specific infrastructure conditions and facilitated discussion in breakout rooms. Access the [recording](#) and [session panel notes](#) shared.

### [Promise Neighborhoods Survey Webinar](#)

This webinar provided an overview of the expectations and best practices for conducting Neighborhood Surveys. A panel of representatives from three Promise Neighborhoods and a senior survey methodologist from the Urban Institute discussed Neighborhood Survey methodology, response rates, lessons learned, and challenges faced. Access the [recording](#) in case you missed it or want to revisit the webinar.

Email [PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com](mailto:PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com) if you are interested in accessing other recordings of events you may have missed.



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