



Neighborhood Compass Newsletter

Quarter 4, 2023

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

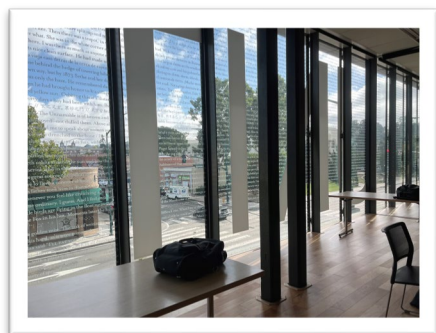
Welcome to winter and the quarter 4 newsletter. In 2023, the seven new fiscal year (FY) 22 and 23 Promise Neighborhoods grantees (see [map and list views](#)) [participated in needs assessment site visits](#). FY 21 sites, including Lancaster, Broward UP, and Klamath River Promise Neighborhoods, hosted site liaisons for in-person TTA. This issue of the *Neighborhood Compass* features additional TTA resources, such as family and community [solutions from Promise grantees](#). As always, the newsletter includes the [latest news about grantees](#), [updates on TTA activities](#), and other [helpful resources](#).



Promise Neighborhoods TTA Highlights

Have you heard about the Promise Neighborhoods site visits?

In the second half of 2023, the Promise TTA site liaisons traveled across the nation to conduct needs assessment site visits with FY 22 and 23 grantees. During site visits, TTA providers, grantees, and their partners discussed data, results, strategies, and solutions. In addition to the information exchanged as part of the formal needs assessment process, grantees got to show off their libraries, community centers, schools, and restaurants. Nothing builds a relationship like breaking bread over local favorites such as a Grippo's panini or brain sandwich. Several FY 21 grantees also had onsite TTA visits. Travel with us through stories from the neighborhoods!



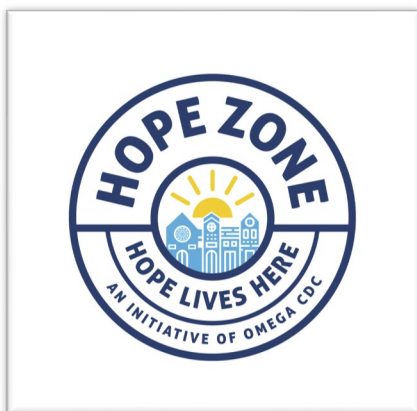
FY 22 Downtown Hayward Promise Neighborhood

On day 1, Downtown Hayward Promise Neighborhood staff and the needs assessment team met at the new Hayward Public Library in downtown Hayward, California. The library is intended to become a community center and centralized point of access to Downtown Hayward Promise Neighborhood partner services. The books and specific quotes displayed on the windows were sourced from a community poll and included quotes in each language spoken in the neighborhood.

FY 22 Letcher Promise Neighborhood

Letcher Promise Neighborhood staff and site liaisons toured Letcher County, Kentucky, favorites, including lunch at the General Store. One site liaison particularly enjoyed their signature Grippo's panini—a chicken panini with Grippo's spicy barbecue chips on top.



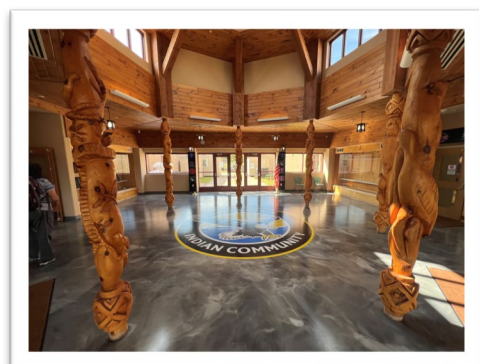


FY 22 Hope Zone Promise Neighborhood

This site visit began at the Hope Center for Families in Dayton, Ohio, which provides wraparound services for families in the community. Site liaisons and Hope Zone staff ended with a visit to an afterschool program called Scholars of H.O.P.E. (Health. Optimistic. Prepared. Educated.), where K–8 students are offered a wide variety of enrichment classes, enhanced learning opportunities, and field trips to broaden their understanding of the world.

FY 23 63106 Promise to Success Initiative

In September, site liaisons visited the 63106 Promise to Success Promise Neighborhood Initiative in St. Louis, Missouri. Out in the community, the team interacted with key partners and the Superintendent of St. Louis Public Schools, visited the 63106 neighborhood, and tasted some of St. Louis' delicious food.



FY 22 Keweenaw Bay Indian

Community/Baraga County Promise Neighborhood

In late September, the needs assessment team traveled to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to visit the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/Baraga County Promise Neighborhood. During the trip, the team toured the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Center.

FY 23 Evansville Promise Neighborhood

Site liaisons visited Evansville Promise Neighborhood in Evansville, Indiana, at the beginning of October. During the visit, the team learned about Evansville's community strengths, took an electric bus ride around the community, toured the University of Evansville, and attended the 102 West Side Nut Club Fall Festival, where they consumed brain sandwiches!





FY 23 SR1 Promise Neighborhood



On October 13, site liaisons visited SR1 Promise Neighborhood in Jackson, Mississippi. As part of the needs assessment site visit, they toured SR1's Think Center, which is the grantee's hub for hosting academic and innovative programs.

FY 21 Broward UP Promise Neighborhoods

In early October, site liaisons traveled to Broward UP Promise Neighborhood in Broward County, Florida. During their visit, Broward College staff and partners met at Broward County Public Schools offices and in a new YMCA building that exemplifies the Promise Neighborhood cradle-to-career impact with early childhood care and health clinic on the ground level and a Broward College satellite campus on the top floor.



Promising Strategies

Which strategies do Promise Neighborhoods find most effective in the family and community pipeline area?

Mission Promise Neighborhood's (MPN) and Mission Economic Development Agency's (MEDA) Communications Team (FY 12). [MPN's](#) lead agency is [MEDA](#), a San Francisco-based nonprofit focused on advancing a national equity movement by building Latino prosperity, community ownership, and civic power. As a FY 12 grantee, MPN's main focus is sustainability, and communication is a key strategy for this area. Over the past few years, MPN and MEDA have worked to create various communication sustainability plans. One such example is MEDA's dedicated communications team, which works to tell the story of MEDA and community members and share success stories. For 2021–2024, MEDA's strategic communications goals have emphasized a “for community, by community” approach that invites community members to share their success stories, including a focus on Spanish-language communication. The strategic plan also concentrated on expanding MEDA's use of social platforms, positioning MEDA as a thought leader by creating and sharing op-eds and articles, and augmenting MEDA's national media presence. For more information and examples of MEDA's storytelling, visit <https://medasf.org/>.





IndyEast Promise Neighborhood (IEPN) Community Advisory Board (FY 21). Over 20 diverse neighbors meet twice monthly as the [IEPN](#) Community Advisory Board. Many Advisors already volunteer with neighborhood associations and as youth mentors or serve as family advocates and board directors at schools. As Community Advisors, they extend their leadership with an additional commitment to the IEPN. To support their participation, IEPN holds Board meetings in the evenings and on weekends; compensates members for their time and expertise; and provides meals, childcare, and language support services. Advisors contribute lived knowledge in the Martindale Brightwood and Near Eastside communities to provide the IEPN lead agencies with guidance, counsel, and direction. In their first year, after guiding the development and implementation of the Neighborhood Survey, Advisors and university researchers collaborated on a web page to depict population data from the segmentation analysis. Advisors have also committed to individual actions to serve families and students in the IEPN and prioritized learning more about Promise Neighborhoods. This summer, the Community Advisory Board hosted a viewing of *Harlem Rising*. This story of the Harlem Children's Zone inspired Advisors to engage with the Practitioner's Institute for a deeper dive into the theory and practice of Promise Neighborhoods. In October, Advisors began exploring the power of resident leadership through a 16-hour learning experience offered by the Learning Tree, national experts in Asset-Based Community Development. Community Advisors' commitment exemplifies how the gifts of neighbors represent the most powerful asset the IEPN can mobilize to achieve better results for children and families. For more information, please contact Jamie Scott at jscott@ednamartincc.org.



***Bonus College and Career Strategy* Everett Freeman Promise Neighborhood's (Corning Promise) Career Pathway Coordinator (FY 16).** In October 2023, [Corning Promise](#) asked the Corning Union High School District Board to approve the hire of a career pathway coordinator at the high school. The career pathway coordinator plans to lead a district initiative to identify and modify existing postsecondary degree pathways and career and technical education (CTE) programs and create new, high-quality, innovative pathways. Corning Promise has shifted from investing in dual-enrollment courses toward revamping the high school's CTE program. Corning Promise also seeks to create high-value opportunities based on the career pathway coordinator's work to analyze labor market trends, assess current certificate and degree pathways, research key industries with growth potential, and use this information to optimize the program and pathways. This pivot came after the Superintendent spoke with a college dean about exploring pathways and other postsecondary programs. For more information, please contact Dawna Holiday-Shchedrov at dholiday@paskenta.org.



In the News

Which Promise Neighborhoods made headlines?

Delta Health Alliance (FY 12, FY 16, FY 21 grantee): Delta Health Alliance cut the ribbon on its fifth Resource & Referral (R&R) Center in October! Delta Health Alliance's R&R Centers provide easy access to books, toys, and other educational materials for families, childcare providers, and educators in the community. The Alliance also provides free referral services for families in need of other support. This fifth site will not be the last—Delta



Health Alliance will open seven more sites across the Mississippi Delta at full scale, offering accessible early education materials and support in 22 counties.

Hope Zone Promise Neighborhood (FY 22 grantee): [The State of the Hope Zone](#). On September 28, the Omega Community Development Corporation hosted the State of the Hope Zone event. This gathering enabled staff members, community participants, partners, scholars, and guests to engage in the ongoing efforts within the Hope Zone. Guest speakers included Josh Davis from Strive Together and Tauheedah Jackson from Harvard Graduate School of Education, EdRedesign Institute for Success Planning. Attendees gained valuable insights from practical field experiences and received tools to facilitate their work.

Evansville Promise Neighborhood (FY 23 grantee): [University of Evansville Named Evansville Regional Economic Partnership's 2023 Community Champion of the Year](#). The University of Evansville (UE) was named the 2023 Community Champion of the Year by the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership. UE received the award for its pivotal role in securing the \$30 million Evansville Promise Neighborhood grant by collaborating with community leaders, educational partners, and local organizations. With continued collaboration and partnerships in the community, 23 Evansville Promise Neighborhood partner agencies accounted for a match of over \$32 million, for a total of more than \$62 million to be invested in the community.

Keep up to date with the Promise Neighborhoods!

[The Promise Neighborhoods list on X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) is a collection of posts from Promise Neighborhoods and their backbone organizations.

If your Promise Neighborhood or backbone organization has an X account, please reach out to PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com to be added to the list!



TTA Talk

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



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

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

Promise Neighborhoods and Full-Service Community School National Network Conference. We are looking forward to seeing you at this year's Promise Neighborhoods and Full-Service Community Schools National Network Conference titled *Engaging Communities and Schools to Promote Equity*. The conference is being held in person from Monday, December 11, to Wednesday, December 13, 2023. If you have conference-related questions, please contact PNFSCS@insightpolicyresearch.com.

Annual Performance Report (APR) and ad hoc reports. The APR cycle is January 1–June 30, with due dates at the end of August. For APR 2023, FY 22 and earlier cohorts completed their reports in Scorecard by August 31, 2023. The U.S. Department of Education program officers use these midyear reports to authorize continuation of funding for the next year. However, we know that the year of activities and data reporting are not complete in August. Next up, grantees will complete their ad hoc APRs for July 1–December 31, due in March. For this next ad hoc deadline, grantees must submit their reports in Scorecard by March 15, 2024. Site liaisons will work with



grantees to conduct preliminary data quality checks March 15–31 before closing Scorecards on March 31, 2024, for the TTA team to begin summarizing grantees' progress.

Reporting Requirements	Deadline	Reporting Period
APR	Typically due August 31	January 1–June 30
Ad hoc APR	Typically due March 15–31*	July 1–December 31

*U.S. Department of Education sets the dates every year.

NEW U.S. Department of Education Program Officer Office Hours

Office hours provide a forum for Promise Neighborhoods project directors to ask Department of Education program officers questions and benefit from hearing other grantees' questions and answers because many grantees face the same changes and challenges. These sessions will feature Promise Neighborhoods program officers on a rotating schedule, including Elson Nash (Director, Division of School Choice and Improvement Programs), Rich Wilson (Promise Team Lead), S. James Guitard, and Karen Ford-Jackson.

Office hours will begin with an overview from ED staff, followed by answers to prescreened questions (send to PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com) and open Q&A. In 2024, Promise TTA will host office hours the second Monday of each month, 4–5 p.m. ET. [Register on Zoom](#) for the January 8, 2024, office hours. Registration links for other office hours will be shared soon.

- [January 8, 2024](#)
- February 12, 2024
- March 11, 2024

January 16, 2024: Ad Hoc Webinar

This 90-minute webinar will review the ad hoc APR 2023 reporting process that builds on the improved executive summary and data source tables introduced with APR 2023. For the next ad hoc deadline, grantees must submit their reports in Scorecard by March 16, 2024. Between March 16 and 31, site liaisons and grantees will review GPRA data and data source tables. We hope you can attend the live session on January 16, 2024 (time TBD), but in case it doesn't work for your schedule, we will record the webinar and share the link and slides after the session.

TBD February: Recharge Webinar

Promise TTA is excited to invite all Promise Neighborhoods grantees to our third annual Recharge meeting! We will start with a scavenger hunt at the newly redesigned [Promise Neighborhoods website](#). We will also share TTA survey results; provide feedback on TTA activities; and discuss ways to strengthen connections among the grantees, TTA team, and the Department of Education. This meeting will be held in February, with an exact date and time to be determined. This event is open to all Promise Neighborhoods staff and partners.

Looking ahead: Start planning for these events

March TBD: Sustainability for Promise Neighborhoods Webinar

Promise Neighborhoods vary, but they share a roadmap for sustaining their results. *Sustainability for Promise Neighborhoods: Case Studies and Annotated Resource List* authors and featured grantees will host a webinar to discuss approaches to sustainability, share case studies with varied approaches, and highlight resources for sustainability planning.



Communities of Practice (CoPs)

In January, the CoP steering committees will meet to generate a theme for the year and resume monthly meetings in February. Interested in joining a steering committee to shape a CoP? Please contact PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com and specify which CoP steering committee you would like to join. Stay tuned for registration information for each CoP in January 2024.

- **The Data and Performance Measurement CoP** meets the first Wednesday of the month, 2–3 p.m. ET, and is great for data managers, pipeline leads, evaluators, and project directors.
- **Racial Equity and Belonging CoP** meets the third Wednesday of the month, 3–4 p.m. ET. Pipeline leads and community partners may be interested in joining this CoP.
- **Promise Leadership CoP** convenes project directors and senior grant leaders on the fourth Monday of the month, 3–4 p.m. ET.

Helpful resources

[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 Government Performance and Results Act indicators that Promise Neighborhoods implementation grantees must report on as part of their federal funding. This document also recommends data collection strategies, sources, and methods for the Promise Neighborhoods community at large, including the collection and tracking of demographic, family, and service delivery characteristics.

You may have missed...

Webinar: Lessons From the Field: Resources and Strategies to Strengthen Attendance

Reducing chronic absence takes an entire community, so initiatives like Promise Neighborhoods and Full-Service Community Schools that use comprehensive systems of support combined with community partnerships have a special role to play. This Attendance Works webinar highlighted evidence-based practices for reducing chronic absence: coordinated community resources, collaborative leadership, and strengthening relationships with students and families. If you missed the webinar, watch the [recording](#).

Email PromiseTA@insightpolicyresearch.com if you are interested in accessing other recordings of events you may have missed.

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