

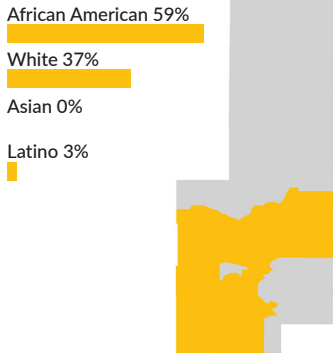


Indianola Promise Community

Indianola, Mississippi

The Indianola Promise Community (IPC) serves children and families who live in Sunflower County on the Mississippi Delta. The coordinating agency, the Delta Health Alliance, partners with 4 schools and 14 organizations to coordinate a continuum of supports focused on improving educational outcomes and family well-being in Indianola. The Indianola Promise Community began its work in 2012 and recently received a grant from the US Department of Education to continue building its comprehensive approach to service delivery and educational programming. As a rural community, IPC partners closely with schools and community institutions to deliver services in centralized locations.

COMMUNITY COMPOSITION



23%

of residents live below federal poverty level

33%

of households are families with children

\$34,660

average median household income (per year) in Indianola

3,012

children live in the Indianola footprint

2,044

children are enrolled in partner schools

14 partner agencies **4** partner schools

PROGRAM IN ACTION



5-YEAR RESULTS

Kindergartener Development

39%

more kindergarteners are ready for school

Three Year Old Development

24%

more three year olds meet developmental benchmarks

Healthy Eating

17%

more children eat 5 fruits and vegetables daily

High School Graduation

6%

more students graduate from high school

SELECT STRATEGIES

- Parents as Teachers helps parents prepare their children for Kindergarten
- Imagination Library provides reading opportunities and access to books for children and their parents
- One-on-one case management and home visits for parents with young children
- Excel by 5 emphasizes the role community stakeholders play in a child's formative years
- Parents as Teachers helps parents educate their children, chart their developmental milestones and gives resources in needed areas
- Imagination Library provides reading opportunities and access to books, as well as volunteer readers in early learning centers
- Healthy Lifestyles Initiative helps teenagers and young adults improve their health
- Afterschool programs provide local youth with exposure to culinary arts and nutrition education
- Mayor's Health Council strengthens capacity for programs focused on healthy lifestyles and a culture of wellness across all age groups
- Case managers discuss the importance of attendance and course performance on graduation rate with parents
- Awareness campaigns around the negative impact of absenteeism and identification of root issues leading to absences
- IPC Youth Council follows a structured curriculum around ACT prep and financial literacy

Source for results: APR ad hoc summary, year 5 and grantee applications

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Third grader Tara was referred to the Indianola Promise Community's LINKS (Linking Individual Neighbors and Kids to Service) program because of low school attendance. While working with the family to address this issue, the LINKS associate found out Tara suffered from headaches, and this was the reason she missed a lot of days from school. LINKS worked with the parent to have Tara's primary care doctor make a referral to a specialist. The specialist diagnosed chronic migraines and prescribed medication to get them under control. By the end of the school year, Tara's health had improved, the number of days she missed was very low, and she made the honor roll. She was not doing that before the LINKS intervention.