



# SWCA Promise Neighborhood

Newark, New Jersey

The SWCA (South Ward Children's Alliance) Promise Neighborhood serves children and families in the South Ward of Newark, New Jersey. In partnership with 8 schools and over 25 other agencies, SWCA coordinates a two-generation (parent and child) continuum of supports focused on improving the educational, health, employment, and housing disparities between South Ward residents. The SWCA Promise Neighborhood emphasizes enhancing the quality of existing programs, scaling evidence-based practices, building a system and culture of accountability, affecting policy change where needed, and engaging students and families.

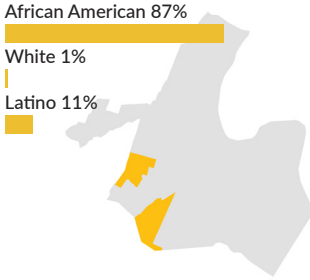
## COMMUNITY COMPOSITION

NEWARK, NJ

African American 87%

White 1%

Latino 11%



41%

of SWCA PN residents live below federal poverty level

29%

of SWCA PN households are families with children

\$25,633

average median household income (per year) in SWCA PN

4,820

children live in the neighborhood footprint

6,181

children are enrolled in partner schools

25+ 8

partner agencies

partner schools

## PROGRAM IN ACTION

### ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

#### Kindergartener Development

75%

of kindergarteners are ready for school

#### Academic Proficiency Math

8%

of students are proficient in math

#### Academic Proficiency ELA

12%

are proficient in English Language Arts

#### Chronic Absenteeism

46%

of students are chronically absent from school

#### High School Graduation

68%

of students graduate on time

Source for academic challenges: 2017 grantee application for funding

### SELECT STRATEGIES

- Invest in parents and caregivers
- Increase high-quality early childhood providers and slots
- Provide social and emotional support to preschoolers

- Academic support to bolster student math proficiency
- Support recruitment and retention of talented teachers and tutors
- Increase availability of high-quality after-school programming

- Academic support to bolster student literacy and language arts skills
- Support recruitment and retention of talented teachers and tutors
- Increase availability of high-quality after-school programming

- Support a positive school climate
- "Family Hub" coaching and therapeutic services for families
- Trauma-informed supports for students and families

- SAT prep
- SWCA Road to College program
- "Family Hub" coaching aimed at keeping students on track to school and career

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Gina and her two children had been living in a household with a domestic abuser. Even though the Family Hub program of the SWCA Promise Neighborhood had assisted them to escape this situation, Gina's son Matthew, who had missed 63 days of school the previous year, continued to show signs of trauma and was afraid to leave the security of their new home. Gina's family coach connected Matthew to treatment for his severe anxiety and worked with the school social worker to modify his school schedule to facilitate healing. Matthew still has a long way to go, but he has missed far fewer school days this year, allowing Gina to focus on her job and stabilizing the family.