

# BOSTON

## PROMISE INITIATIVE

### IMPLEMENTATION GRANTEE PROFILE

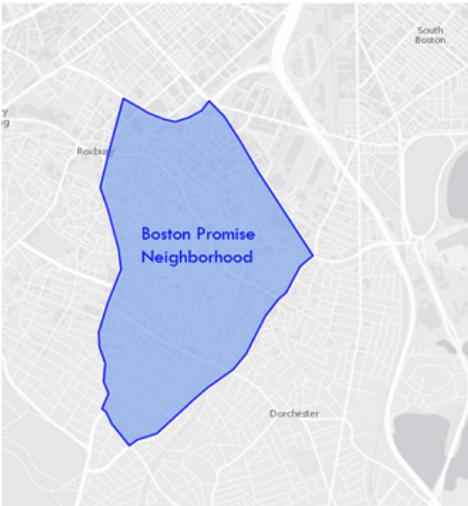
Boston (Roxbury), MA

## Partners

- LEAD AGENCY**  
Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
- PARTNER AGENCIES**
- Barr Foundation
- Boston After School and Beyond
- Boston Children's Museum
- Boston College Lynch School of Education
- Boston Housing Authority
- Boston Opportunity Agenda
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Public Schools BPE
- Children's Services of Roxbury
- Citizen Schools
- City of Boston
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Generations, Inc.
- Jeremiah E. Burke High School
- Jobs for the Future
- Latino STEM Alliance
- Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School

## Mission

Boston Promise Initiative's mission is to create a community of opportunity, centered on strong schools, strong families, and strong neighborhoods, that allows every child to learn, grow, and succeed. BPI will transform the neighborhoods of Roxbury and North Dorchester into the Dudley Village Campus (DVC) – a learning environment where all children have access to high-quality schools and strong systems of family and community support.



**Land Area:** 1.3 square miles  
**Population:** 26,650

Situated less than two miles from downtown Boston and laced with city boulevards, the Dudley neighborhood sits just west of the highway and north of a city park.

Fast Facts

Community Composition	
<p><b>Socioeconomic Data</b></p> <p>Just over one-third of residents live below the federal poverty level, and well over a third of children in BPI live in poverty.</p>	<p><b>Demographic Data</b></p> <p>Majority African American, with small populations white, American Indian or Pacific Islander, Asian or a combination of two or more races; 28% identified as Latino. Only 55% speak only English.</p>
<p><b>Children Enrolled in Target Schools</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1,919 students</p>	<p><b>Children Living in Footprint</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8,331 younger than 19 5,947 school-aged</p>
<p><b># Schools Served</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p><b>Types of Schools</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">PreK-5; PreK-8; 6-12; 9-12</p>



## Early Successes & Results

Promise Neighborhoods communities have been working to realize their vision for a cradle-to-career pipeline of seamlessly linked programs, services, and supports to help ensure all their children reach their fullest potential. Lead agencies are collaborating with a wide range of partners, including schools and community members, to build the capacity necessary to achieve better results for children and families. Guided by the Promise Neighborhoods program's clear results framework, lead agencies and partners have worked to develop critical infrastructure, such as strategic and accountable partnerships and systems and processes to collect, analyze, and use data for learning and accountability to create a culture of results.

In addition to enhancing their capacity and laying a foundation for more effective collaboration, Promise Neighborhoods communities have begun to implement significant pieces of their cradle-to-career pipeline, engaging children and families, providing access to needed programs, services, and supports, and achieving early successes and results. Highlights from this ongoing work in Boston Promise Initiative include:

### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND READINESS

Dudley Village Campus School Readiness Pipeline: Through our partner Thrive in Five, six parent screeners were hired to reach out to families whose children are not in a formal childcare center. Screeners met the parent and child and performed the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), which supports families in understanding their children's developmental milestones. Families whose children showed developmental delays were connected with additional services. In addition to hiring, training and supporting parent screeners, Thrive in Five, with the support of DSNI, connected with licensed providers to train and support teachers to administer the ASQ

### IMPROVING ACADEMIC OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

Dudley Promise Corps: The mission of the Dudley Promise Corps is to leverage the power of national service to ensure all students in Boston's Dudley neighborhood are proficient in reading by grade 3 and on track to attend college and serve as responsible citizens who actively contribute to their communities. It is our strategy to provide more adults at the schools to support student learning, specifically for extended day programming, literacy support, and attendance support. Corps members serve full-time, five days per week in either the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School or Orchard Gardens K - 8 Pilot School. There are 31 Dudley Promise Corps members working full time in the classrooms with 465 K-3rd graders. In its second year, DPC increased its focus on literacy support; corps members have received comprehensive training as "Promise Readers" and engage in high-leverage individual reading conferences with students who are slightly behind in reading. DPC members also develop and lead extended learning time programming, with a particular focus on science and play-based activities.

### PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The DSNI Education Committee focuses on local educational issues that affect the DVC - as well as state and federal decisions that have an impact on our neighborhood's children. This group of 25 DSNI board members, residents, parents, school staff from DVC schools, district staff, and community organization representatives meets once a month. A component of their work is leading and shaping the L.O.V.E. (Learning Our Value in Education) Campaign. With 72% of our young people attending school outside of the DVC, the L.O.V.E. Campaign elevates the significant and visible role of parents, families, neighbors, businesses, agencies and religious organizations in our children's education. The community-

#### PARTNER AGENCIES (continued)

- Martin Luther King Mass Mentoring Partnership
- Nurtury
- Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School
- Project Hope
- Roxbury Community College
- RoxMAPP
- Salvation Army Kroc Center
- The Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University
- The Boston Foundation
- The Food Project
- Thrive in Five
- Vital Village
- X-Cel Education



wide campaign was launched in 2013 and increases shared ownership of child/youth success; providing opportunities for residents across the DVC to support youth development. Monthly L.O.V.E. Parent Cafes bring together parents in our schools and in our neighborhood to highlight the barriers to success and create strategies to advocate for school and system-level changes.

### HIGH SCHOOL TO CAREER PATHWAYS

Starting in Fall 2015, DSNI will convene DVC residents (including families and youth) with the objective of building a shared community understanding of: 1) our current reality in terms of availability and quality of post-secondary educational and workforce development opportunities for residents; and 2) our future goals; and 3) a pathway to meeting those goals. This work will involve building consensus on the preparation that will be needed for full participation in our region's economy, developing shared data systems to keep us moving in alignment, and ultimately, improving college completion rates for Dudley students, including those who attend high school or live in the neighborhood, and students who start their post-secondary journey at Roxbury Community College. Leveraging the current work being done, we will initially focus on Opportunity Youth and a cohort of Success Boston students who come from the DSNI neighborhood or partner schools.

### COMMUNITY AND RESIDENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

DSNI has partnered with Family Independence Initiative to engage low-income residents in the DVC through Fair Chance for Family Success - peer support groups that set goals around family success, including employment and education goals. To date, 118 families are enrolled in twelve groups. Each participant receives a laptop and financial stipend for setting goals and maintaining their data. Goals include increased income and savings and reduced debt.

Dudley Grows is a joint project of The Food Project, ACE and DSNI, with a goal of cultivating healthier food habits, a

stronger food culture and more active lifestyles for residents of Roxbury and North Dorchester. Through the coordinated efforts of the partner organizations, neighbors will have increased access to fresh, healthy, affordable food through farmers' markets and other sources, will be able to learn to grow their own in backyard or community gardens, to learn about healthy meal-planning and cooking, and to advocate for, and develop, food and fitness resources for their neighborhood. One component of this initiative is partnering with schools. This past spring, 7th and 8th grade students at Orchard Gardens engaged in a unit on food justice in the neighborhood. As part of this unit, youth conducted focus groups with their peers using findings from the BPI school climate survey. In addition, youth toured the neighborhood learning about formerly toxic sites in the neighborhood that have been reclaimed by the neighborhood. Youth presented their findings and recommendations to Dudley Grows.

### HOUSING STABILITY

DSNI partners with Project Hope to lead and implement No Child Goes Homeless at Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School, the Dearborn 6 - 12 STEM Academy, and Orchard Gardens K - 8 Pilot School; as well as for families in housing owned by Winn and Maloney property companies. The goals for this effort include: placing families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness into permanent, affordable housing; prevent evictions of residents; and through housing stabilization, improve attendance of children enrolled in the three schools. Youth Harbors, an organization that does similar work, but for older youth, has joined to serve students at the Burke High School. Project Hope is currently working with 44 families and 27 were placed in permanent housing. With very limited data, we have been able to demonstrate that there is a positive correlation between housing stability and children's school attendance, with the children who are homeless having average attendance around 53% and the children who are housed having average attendance around 74%.

## Key Challenges & Opportunities

Over the past year, we have made strides in a number of areas, including hosting community-focused and partner-focused BPI events; data collection and reporting; becoming a key thinking partner with the new Boston Public Schools administration; awarding and supporting 9 implementation subgrantees; starting to incorporate a focus on high school to college & career pathways; and contributing to citywide policy development through No Child Goes Homeless. DSNI will be entering into a strategic planning process in late 2015 to determine our direction over the next 5 years. A key part of that will be sustainability planning for the work we have begun under the Boston Promise Initiative. The outcomes we see from the strategies listed above will be key in determining where we focus to continue building a community that supports young people's success.





## Making a Difference

The Boston Promise Initiative will transform the neighborhoods of Roxbury and North Dorchester into the Dudley Village Campus (DVC) – a learning environment where all children have access to high-quality schools and strong systems of family and community support; preparing them to attain an excellent education; and successfully transition to vocational training, college, and livable wage careers.

-Boston Promise Initiative



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