

BUFFALO

PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTEE PROFILE

Buffalo, NY

Partners

- LEAD AGENCY**
Westminster Foundation
- PARTNER AGENCIES**
- AmeriCorps
 - Annie E. Casey Foundation
 - Bailey Ave. Business Association
 - Belmont Housing Resources for WNY
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County
 - Buffalo Center for the Arts and Technology
 - Buffalo LISC
 - Buffalo PeaceMakers
 - Buffalo School District
 - Buffalo Urban League
 - City of Buffalo
 - Community Health Center of Buffalo
 - Community Action
 - Organization of Erie County
 - County of Erie
 - Erie Community College
 - Highgate Heights Elementary School
 - John R. Oishei Foundation
 - Margaret L. Wendt Foundation
 - M & T Bank Corporation

Mission

Buffalo Promise Neighborhood (BPN) is a unique public/private partnership seeking to improve academic performance at the neighborhood’s three schools – the Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Children’s Academy, Highgate Heights Elementary and Westminster Community Charter School – while revitalizing the surrounding community. Through the collaboration and commitment of local leaders in education, business, community services, philanthropy, healthcare and government, Buffalo Promise Neighborhood is creating a sustainable model for neighborhood revitalization.



Land Area: 24 square miles
Population: 33,178

Situated to the east of downtown Lubbock, Texas, the East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood is bounded to the north, east and south by three separate city boulevards, and to the west by a state highway, and divided by Loop 289, a freeway designed to connect all portions of the city together.

Fast Facts

Community Composition

<p>Socioeconomic Data</p> <p>Over two-thirds of children are poor and live in single-parent households.</p>	<p>Demographic Data</p> <p>Primarily African-American</p>
<p>Children Enrolled in Target Schools</p> <p>1,145 students</p>	<p>Children Living in Footprint</p> <p>3,646 under 18 2,790 school-aged</p>
<p># Schools Served</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Types of Schools</p> <p>Early Headstart; Pre-K-8</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 Buffalo Promise Neighborhood include:

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND READINESS

BPN has seen an increase from 90% (3 year olds and kindergartners combined) demonstrating age appropriate functioning in 2013 to 95% in 2014. Likewise there was an increase from 62% of children ages 0-5 who attend an early learning setting to 73% in 2014. BPN opened a new, \$3.5 million early childhood education center in 2013, the BPN Children's Academy which will serve up to 120 children from infancy to age five each year. Not only does the Academy serve a large number of children in the neighborhood, it enables BPN to enroll families at the beginning of their pipeline of services in a seamless manner. Formal assessments are done three times a year

to ensure that children are on track to be ready for Kindergarten. The Academy will also provide full-day care for infants and toddlers. Other solutions, including Read to Succeed has been implemented at the planned scale and are having the desired impact.

IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF SAFETY FOR STUDENTS

By leveraging the work and funding of the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) grant, BPN has implemented a neighborhood safety program through partnerships with the local police department and others, leading to a more robust police presence at crime "hot spots" and research to determine the drivers of crime to develop data-driven solutions. Through use of Public Safety Enhancement (PSE) funds, BPN has expanded the Council for Unity Program to address school violence and gang activity at Westminster Community Charter School. The program has a full time Program Advisor coordinating implementation with teachers in the schools where the initiative is based. BPN also strengthened youth engagement efforts through PSE funds, by holding three Youth Leadership Summit Conferences for over 700 combined students within the BPN footprint. Students participated in workshops on community leadership, youth entrepreneurship, online bullying, diversity and developing positive relationships, self-esteem, healthy eating, drug prevention, and education.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

By leveraging the work and funding of the Family Centered Community Change grant received from the Annie E. Casey Foundation beginning with a pilot in 2012, BPN serves approximately 160 parents/guardians, encompassing approximately 135 households, engaged in programming with 37% participating in one-on-one coaching and achieving at least one short term positive outcome.

PARTNER AGENCIES (continued)

Read to Succeed
Buffalo
State of New York
Teach for America
University of Buffalo
Westminster
Community Charter
School





Free tax preparation services in 2015 for 25 returns netted over \$70,000 in tax returns and fees saved. One hundred percent of children with parents engaged in the program scored at age appropriate functioning.

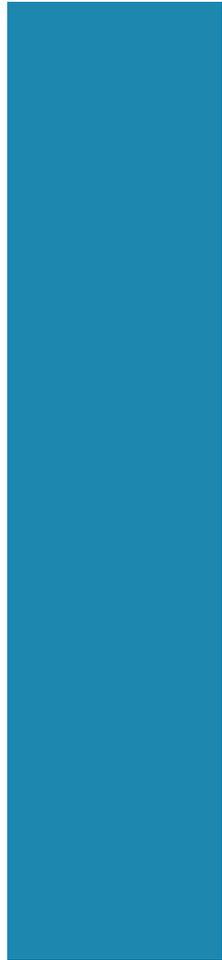
COMMUNITY AND RESIDENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

The role of residents has expanded considerably since the start of implementation. Residents and community groups have become significantly more engaged through

an extensive community strategy led by the Director of Community Affairs and the Community Engagement Specialist. They have, together with residents, formed a resident-led BPN Community Council. Given the strength and representation of this body, BPN's governance structure uses the Council as the primary voice of residents, which is now highly active and engaged in BPN efforts. A quality-of-life community plan was completed in 2013, with input from over 125 neighborhood residents who attended a series of visioning sessions and work committees.

Key Challenges & Opportunities

The school district closed Bennett High School, a NYS persistently struggling school, to new students in 2013, using annual attrition through graduation (students move out of the school when they graduate, and no additional students are added at the school). Finding alternative high schools for students moving up through the pipeline that continue to build on the gains made in earlier years is both a challenge and an opportunity to work with new partners. BPN launched the BPN Scholars initiative in 2014 that provides scholarships to eligible 8th graders graduating from Westminster Community Charter School and Highgate Heights Elementary School to attend top private and criterion based high schools in the Western New York area. Even with the above challenges, BPN continues to build out the end of the pipeline, by cultivating relationships with area colleges.





Making a Difference

Since receiving the U.S. Department of Education implementation grant award in 2011, Buffalo Promise Neighborhood has made great strides in building a pipeline of cradle-to-career supports for children and families in our footprint. We have leveraged our initial \$6 million award into over \$32 million in commitments from a variety of public and private partners, including M&T Bank, The U.S. Department of Justice and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In 2012, we brought a significant visible sign of change to the community when we broke ground on the BPN Children's Academy, a brand new 12,000 sq. ft. early childhood education center. The Children's Academy opened in 2013 and serves 120 neighborhood children ages 0-5. BPN teachers now have additional

staff support, curriculum, and professional development, and students have access to new technology in the classroom and mentorship support through BPN's AmeriCorps team. In the community, we've implemented programs to increase neighborhood safety, home ownership and resident engagement that have made the neighborhood a better place to live, work and play. As the grant period winds down, BPN remains focused on improving academic outcomes and the sustainability of community transformation efforts in order to continue to support neighborhood children and families on their journeys to college and career.

-Buffalo Promise Neighborhood



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