

# DC PROMISE

## NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

### IMPLEMENTATION GRANTEE PROFILE

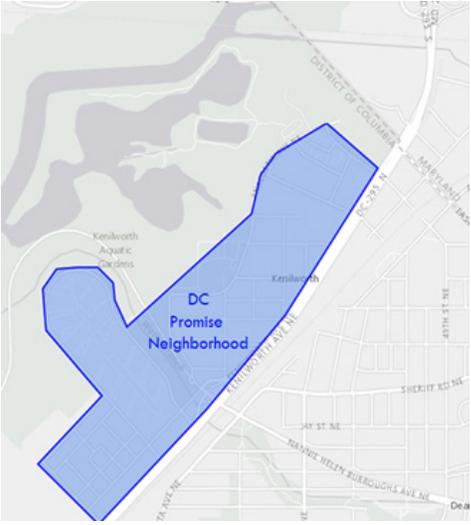
Washington, DC

## Partners

- LEAD AGENCY**  
**DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative**
- PARTNER AGENCIES**
- AARP Experience Corps - DC
  - Capitol Educational Support
  - Chase Your Dreams Academy
  - Chess Challenge
  - City Year - Washington, DC
  - College Success Foundation
  - Dance Vision
  - Higher Achievement
  - Higher Hopes, Inc.
  - Jumpstart
  - Kids Kitchen, Inc.
  - The Literacy Lab
  - Mentor Foundation USA
  - Red Sprinkle, Inc.
  - Technology and Gaming (T.A.G.), Inc.

## Mission

The mission of DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative (DCPNI) is to support all members of the Kenilworth-Parkside community in improving the quality of their own lives and inspiring positive change in their neighborhood.



**Land Area:** 2 square miles  
**Population:** 5,725

Located in the northeast corner of Washington, D.C., the neighborhood is bordered to the northwest by the Anacostia river, southwest by an abandoned power plant, and to the east by a major freeway.

**Fast Facts**

Community Composition	
Socioeconomic Data	Demographic Data
50% of residents below the poverty line.	98% of students are African American
Children Enrolled in Target Schools	Children Living in Footprint
1,168 students	2,125 school-aged
# Schools Served	Types of Schools
3	PreK-5; 6-8; 9-12



## 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 by DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative include:

### IMPROVING ACADEMIC OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

DCPNI launched in- and out-of-school-time programming for students who do not attend schools in the community through a series

of academic and enrichment services. These programs combine traditional academic services such as homework assistance and tutoring with enrichment activities such as photography, video game design, chess, dance, and sports to encourage students to learn in many different ways.

In a December 4th, 2014 Washington Post article, the Principal of Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School at Parkside (Chavez-Parkside) credited DCPNI with being a significant contributor for the awarding of "Tier 1" status to Chavez-Parkside. This was the first year Chavez-Parkside has achieved Tier 1 designation (the highest designation awarded by the DC Public Charter School Board).

### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

DCPNI began two initiatives that focus on college readiness and success. The Senior Pathways program assists 12th grade students with supports to help them choose the right college. The College Success Foundation is working with DCPNI to launch a college readiness program at Chavez-Parkside High School. Through a partnership with the AT&T Foundation's Aspire initiative, DCPNI is working with an external evaluator to measure the effectiveness of this college readiness programming.

### IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF HEALTH FOR STUDENTS

To address the dearth of grocery stores in the neighborhood, DCPNI partnered with Martha's



Table to offer a Family Food Market, which brings fresh fruits, vegetables, and other staples to families. DCPNI developed and implemented additional strategies to tackle community health disparities and food insecurity, including free and low-cost food distribution events at multiple locations in the neighborhood.

### PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The first Kenilworth-Parkside Neighborhood and School Climate Surveys were conducted resulting in 1,069 completed surveys. DCPNI also engaged parents by offering a two semester A+ certification program. Parent and family engagement was also strengthened by DCPNI's launch of a community action team, which is led by Kenilworth-Parkside parents and adults. DCPNI also played a leading role in helping to re-launch the Parent-Teacher Association at Neval Thomas Elementary School.

### COMMUNITY AND RESIDENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

To ensure that afterschool programs are available to children and youth at sites that are located close to their homes and schools, DCPNI brought academic support, health and fitness, performing arts, and mentoring programs to four community centers in the Promise Neighborhood. DCPNI has also focused on a variety of community engagement activities centered on outreach and community building efforts. These activities have included providing support for community events focused on helping parents understand the importance of regular school attendance for their children. In partnership with community organizations (KaBOOM!, DC Housing Authority, and JetBlue Airlines), DCPNI also built a playground to bring additional safe places to the community.

## Key Challenges & Opportunities

After the 2014-2015 school year, all principals at the schools in the Promise Neighborhood left or were replaced. DCPNI will need to spend the 2015-2016 school year establishing relationships with the new principals and identifying priorities that align with each of the new principals' visions.





## Making a Difference

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At the end of the U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhood grant, we will have increased our reach throughout Ward 7 and erected a community of practice that is shifting expectations, reclaiming the community’s narrative, and setting the standard for healthy community engagement.

-DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative



**U.S. Department of Education**  
Office of Innovation and Improvement

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