

EASTSIDE

PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTEE PROFILE

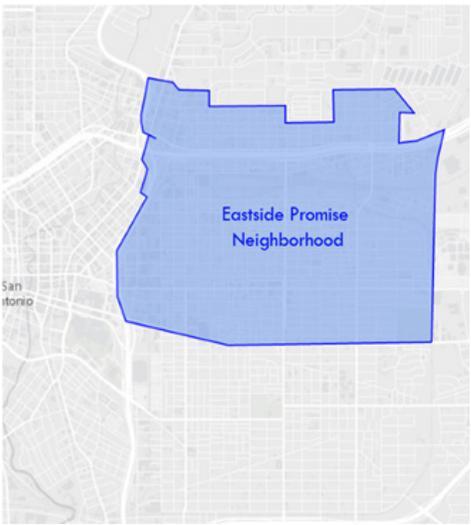
San Antonio, TX

Partners

- LEAD AGENCY**
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County
- PARTNER AGENCIES**
- City of San Antonio
 - City Year San Antonio
 - Community Information Now
 - Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc.
 - San Antonio Housing Authority
 - San Antonio Independent School District

Mission

The Eastside Promise Neighborhood (EPN) unites institutional and resident stakeholders to leverage and strengthen the neighborhood's assets and resources so that children and families are inspired to stay, grow, graduate...and stay. EPN is building a continuum of solutions intentionally selected to improve educational and developmental outcomes in 5,925 children and youth from San Antonio's historic Eastside and their families. The solutions feature cradle-to-career educational reforms that will yield micro (individual children and families) and macro-level (school system and neighborhood revitalization) change.



Land Area: 3.5 square miles
Population: 17,955

A cluster of contiguous neighborhoods just east of down-town, the area covers approximately 3.5 square miles. It is bordered by a military base to the north, a stadium to the east, a state highway to the west, and a major city boulevard to the south.

Fast Facts

Community Composition

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| <p>Socioeconomic Data</p> <p>Almost two-thirds of children live in poverty.</p> | <p>Demographic Data</p> <p>Residents are two-thirds Hispanic and one-quarter African-American.</p> |
| <p>Children Enrolled in Target Schools</p> <p>2,887 students</p> | <p>Children Living in Footprint</p> <p>5,487 under 18 3,889 school-aged</p> |
| <p># Schools Served</p> <p>6</p> | <p>Types of Schools</p> <p>Early Childhood; K-5; 6-8; 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 Eastside Promise Neighborhood include:

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND READINESS

Eastside Promise Neighborhood developed an integrated system of support for children 0-8 and their families. The pipeline of services provides multiple integrated points of entry to services with the common focus of Kindergarten readiness and increased academic achievement. To build this support system required the collaboration of multiple partnerships and service providers.

A range of strategies has contributed to a significant improvement in the kinder readiness of young children in the neighborhood. The partner school district (SAISD) expanded its pre-k classes in the footprint, strategic instructional supports were provided to the SAISD's early learning center, a customized quality improvement plan was developed and implemented with the footprint's

three child care centers and kinder prep camp is now offered on each of the 3 elementary school campuses.

For the children attending Head Start and pre-k in the footprint, 93.5% of 139 children assessed and 93.3% of the three year old children attending the footprint childcare centers demonstrated age appropriate functioning. The Early Development Instrument (EDI), which measures five developmental domains and provides a range from vulnerable to an on-track (for kindergarten) provides a population-level measure of school readiness in five developmental domains. The children deemed most vulnerable has declined to 11.4% and the children "on track" or kinder-ready has increased to 47%.

IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF SAFETY FOR STUDENTS

Hot Spot Policing has its basis in the "broken windows" theory that crime is likely to flourish in areas with high levels of physical and social disorder.

Safety patrols were expanded to include afternoons during the summer months and routes were adjusted to include all of the EPN summer out-of-school time programs. Officers affiliated with the program are also now included as participants in EPN community events, serving as both security and distributing safety tips and engaging with attendees.

Once Wheatley Courts (across the street from Wheatley middle school) was vacated and school resumed for the spring 2014 semester, there were several complaints from school officials and residents that the empty building posed a threat for students walking to and from school in the area. Solutions included placing a fence around the property, a concentrated effort to collect stray dogs which had begun forming packs in the area, and establishing a coordinated approach for law enforcement. EPN increased safety patrols to include 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., a time period that

had been identified as a gap by the EPN School and Neighborhood Committee which is focused on safety issues.

EPN is also partnering with the local Choice Neighborhood effort to address inadequacies in the built environment around the Wheatley Courts neighborhood, using public safety enhancement (PSE) grants. This work focuses on areas conducive to criminal activity, as well as a citywide effort to turn a known hot spot on the way to Wheatley into a well-managed green space. Choice Neighborhood partners implemented a People of Potential Neighborhood Empowerment Campaign that included: neighborhood clean-ups, business development, home maintenance and home ownership workshops, health and wellness opportunities.

The collective efforts of the partners are yielding positive results for the community. Crime in the footprint has been on a steady decline since 2012, with a 22.4% decrease in the total number of reported crimes between 2012 and 2014. Looking at subcategories of crime reporting overall between 2012 and 2014, violent crimes decreased by 32.7% and property crimes decreased by 17.6%. A third category of crimes including drug arrests, liquor law violations and prostitution are categorized as part of proactive police enforcement. Due to intentional focus on proactive police enforcement early on in the EPN process, this category of crime decreased 23.5% between 2012 and 2014.

IMPROVING ACADEMIC OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

EPN and the San Antonio Independent School District have implemented educational reforms in the six Promise schools that include a pre-k through 12th grade focus on STEM instruction and learning, including Engineering Fridays where the entire day is a lab day focused on project-based learning. In all three partner elementary schools, over 60% of the students passed the state science assessments and exceeded the district average; one school exceeded the

state average. For grades 3rd – 8th, proficiency in state ELA assessment continues to rise and exceed EPN’s published targets. In four of its six schools, EPN has worked with City Year to tutor and mentor 966 students. Early indicators of success include a reduction in chronic absenteeism for 8th graders from 15% to 8%, and an increase in graduation rate at Sam Houston High from 46% to 80%.

Promise Neighborhoods and Trinity University have partnered to develop a leadership development opportunity for teachers in the six Promise Neighborhood schools to earn a Master’s degree and their school administration license through a scholarship program that requires they remain in the Promise Neighborhood schools for 6 years.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Advise Texas, a collaborative program with Trinity University, provided a full-time staff member on campus to interact and support students in completing financial aid and enrollment paperwork for postsecondary learning. EPN has also collaborated with City Year and Gear UP to provide two student/parent College Nights in the spring term that focus on high school completion and college entry. Advise Texas served 200 students between January and May, 2014.

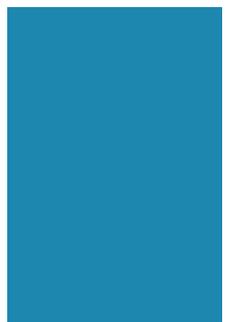
Feeder pattern schools are providing continual postsecondary planning to create a better transition from high school to college and career readiness.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Eastside Promise Neighborhood infuses parent engagement throughout their pipeline of solutions. EPN successfully piloted a Dual Generation partnership for 75 families and 100 children. Adults have access opportunities to return to work, further their education, or increase job readiness skills while providing quality childcare for children ages 0–5. The initiative is positioned to impact 500 EPN families by 2016.

Key Challenges & Opportunities

EPN launched with a focus on early childhood development due to the fact that the majority of children were not kinder ready and many were significantly behind developmentally. Once sustainable formal and sustainable early education system supports were in place, EPN was able to shift greater focus to the other end of the pipeline to enhance college and career readiness. Early results in EPN’s college/career efforts are showing promise but much remains with very little time given the end date of the grant. Safety, in this highly mobile neighborhood undergoing significant transformation, remains a top priority concern. The Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation program has inspired a new level of collaboration and a number of innovative in-school and community-based efforts are underway as a result. Due to the success of the STEM strategic plan in the EPN partner schools, the school district is exploring avenues to sustain and scale the work district wide.





Making a Difference

Operating out of the belief that every student and families should be afforded opportunities for quality education, housing, work and economic development, Eastside Promise Neighborhood will strive to create the ability to Stay, Grow, Graduate and Stay by building a cradle to career pathway in a community residents can call their own and an area where others will want to live. We are leading a wave of grass roots and systemic changes that are revitalizing a long overlooked neighborhood. Students are achieving stronger educational

outcomes that lead to pathways of success, and residents and families have more economic opportunity and security, in a neighborhood that will thrive with an increased sense of pride as a vibrant and safe place to live.

-Eastside Promise Neighborhood



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