

I

NDIANOLA PROMISE COMMUNITY

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTEE PROFILE

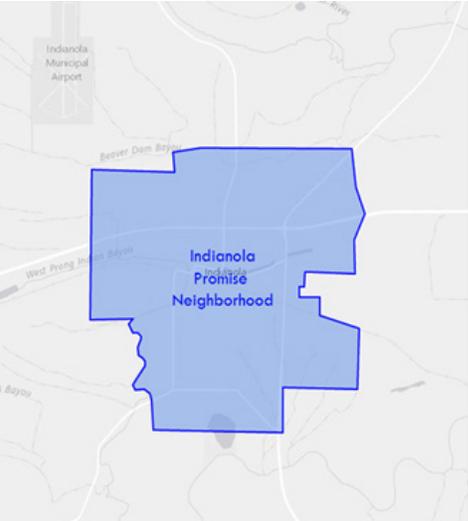
Indianola, MS

Partners

- LEAD AGENCY**
Delta Health Alliance
- PARTNER AGENCIES**
 - AmeriCorps*VISTA
 - B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center
 - City of Indianola
 - Children's Defense Fund
 - Community Bank
 - Delta Council
 - Delta State University
 - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 - Excel by 5
 - Guaranty Bank
 - Indianola Family Medical Group
 - Kepler Institute
 - Leland Medical Clinic
 - Mississippi Center for Education Innovation
 - Mississippi Center for Justice
 - Mississippi Delta Community College
 - Mississippi Department of Health
 - Mississippi Low Income Childcare Initiative
 - On Track, CDC
 - Parents as Teachers National
 - Save the Children

Mission

Indianola Promise Community (IPC) is building a pipeline of care to make sure that young children are healthy; kindergartners are prepared; and extra help is provided to students who are academically struggling. As a result of this work, young people will be ready to graduate from high school, thrive in college, and find jobs with good pay. Indianola Promise Community is a community-based initiative designed to provide children with the opportunity to succeed in school, graduate, and attend college. This work represents an extraordinary opportunity to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of children who are at risk for poor outcomes.



Land Area: 8.57 square miles
Population: 10,495

Located in the northwestern corner of Mississippi, Indianola is considered a rural town. The entire town will be developed within the Indianola Promise Community. The town is 98 miles north of Jackson, MS, and 137 miles south of Memphis, TN.

Fast Facts

Community Composition	
<p>Socioeconomic Data</p> <p>Over a third lived below the poverty level in 2013.</p>	<p>Demographic Data</p> <p>The community is majority African-American (79.4%).</p>
<p>Children Enrolled in Target Schools</p> <p>2,234 students</p>	<p>Children Living in Footprint</p> <p>3,013 under 18 2,073 school-aged</p>
<p># Schools Served</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Types of Schools</p> <p>K-2; 3-6; 7-9; 10-12</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 Indianola Promise Community include:

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND READINESS

The IPC team established the Indianola Promise Community Early Education Collaborative, which consists of representatives from a variety of state and local childcare organizations that learn from each other, coordinate services, and collaborate on the early stage of the pipeline. Additionally, over the past year, IPC led an effort that has successfully aligned curriculum and assessment at all private child care centers, Head Start providers, and the state's Pre-K collaborative—together serving over 500 young children.

As a result of these efforts, almost 20% more children arrived at Kindergarten ready for school

in September 2014, compared to the year before. Additionally, a child who has enrolled in at least 2 IPC programs by the time they arrive at Kindergarten, on average, meets or exceeds Kindergarten readiness benchmarks.

IMPROVING ACADEMIC OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

IPC is able to track data on over 90 percent of school-aged children in the catchment area and provided services to 79 percent of the whole population during the grant period to date.

For the second year in a row, the CARES Mentoring Program received recognition from the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education as one of Mississippi's top school-community partnerships. The CARES program targets students in Kindergarten through 3rd Grade who fall in the bottom 25 percent, academically. Over the course of the school year, CARES participants have begun to close the academic achievement gap between non-CARES participants.

Through the SPARK program, students demonstrating a delay in literacy or language receive one-on-one intervention at home and school from trained advocates. By the end of the school year, 68% of SPARK participants were meeting proficiency cut scores, compared to only 31% in the fall.

IPC also assisted the school district with obtaining laptops for online learning. Each of the four schools in the IPC received laptops and access to an online academic intervention that focuses on improving literacy and math skills.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Families of children at most risk have been targeted and able to enroll in IPC's LINKS (Linking Individuals Neighborhoods and Kids to Services) program. The family's LINKS serve as a connector of school, home and community

PARTNER AGENCIES (continued)

- Sunflower County Consolidated School District
- Sunflower County Ministerial Alliance
- Sunflower Humphreys Counties Progress, Inc.
- Teach For America - Mississippi





resources to support students' success and to address any risk factors. In the program's first year of implementation, over 350 families have been enrolled and connected to support services.

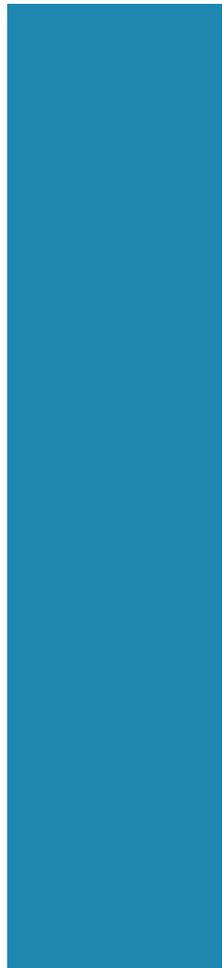
COMMUNITY AND RESIDENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

IPC teamed up with KaBOOM! to build a community park in the low-income Southgate Neighborhood. Residents designed, developed, and constructed the park with more than 350 community members over one weekend.

This past year, IPC has worked with community leaders and members to revitalize the neighborhood associations. There are currently 5 active neighborhood associations, all of which will seek full 501(c)3 status during the upcoming year. The new legal status will allow the organizations to sustain themselves past the USDOE grant—by allowing the associations to apply for and receive their own funding.

Key Challenges & Opportunities

The Indianola Promise Community is working to bring the most effective practices, interventions and programs to scope, scale and sustainability so that all of the community's children are placed on a positive trajectory towards success. A key challenge to reversing the trend of large scale academic failure and decreasing quality of life indicators is keeping multiple stakeholders focused on specific results in the best interests of children, families and their communities. An opportunity exists in Indianola for accomplishing this ongoing effort because of the IPC's results-based approach to convening stakeholders, establishing shared goals and performance measures and insisting on holding all parties accountable for those goals.





Making a Difference

Inherent in the IPC model is a reliance on data and evidence to guide management and programmatic decisions. Evidence of success, in turn, is the foundation for both scalability and sustainability. In this sense, both the promise and responsibility of the IPC is to serve as a demonstration of the way that a coherent, community wide change effort can improve student achievement and family well-being. Both our neighbors in the Delta and the MS legislature are watching the IPC effort closely for insights into how to grow stronger communities, improve

schools, and develop an educated, productive workforce. We are striving to produce the foundational outcomes by the end of the Promise Neighborhood grant period that will inform our state legislature and peers conducting similar work of a successful model for improving community outcomes at the population level.

-Indianola Promise Community



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

Website: promiseneighborhoods/ed.gov

Email: promiseneighborhoods@ed.gov