



# NORTHSIDE ACHIEVEMENT ZONE

## IMPLEMENTATION GRANTEE PROFILE

Minneapolis, MN

### Partners

- LEAD AGENCY**  
Northside Achievement Zone
- PARTNER AGENCIES\***  
EARLY CHILDHOOD
- Bright Water Montessori School
  - Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery
  - LaCreche Early Childhood Centers, Inc.
  - Minneapolis Public Schools Early Childhood Education
  - Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency
  - New Horizon Academy
  - Northside Child Development Center
  - Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
  - The Family Partnership
  - Think Small
  - Way to Grow
  - YWCA of Minneapolis
- K-12 SCHOOLS**
- Ascension Catholic School
  - Elizabeth Hall International Elementary School (MPS)
  - Harvest Preparatory School and Seed Academy
  - Franklin Middle School (MPS)
  - KIPP North Star Academy
  - Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary School (MPS)
  - North Senior Academy (MPS)
  - Patrick Henry High School (MPS)
  - PYC Arts & Technology High School
  - Sojourner Truth Academy Elementary School
- COLLEGE**
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College
  - University of Minnesota
- \* This list includes only NAZ "Anchor Partners."*

### Mission

The NAZ is a collaboration of organizations and schools partnering with families in a geographic "Zone" of North Minneapolis to prepare children to graduate from high school ready for college.

- Its purpose is to end multigenerational poverty within North Minneapolis.
- Each enrolled family moves through a "cradle-to-career" ecosystem that provides comprehensive support from pre-natal through college to career.



**Land Area:** 1.5 square miles  
**Population:** 14,798

Located on the north side of Minneapolis, NAZ is a contiguous 13- by 18-block neighborhood. Surrounded by city streets to the north, west, and south, and a state highway to the east, the neighborhood contains several parks.

**Fast Facts**

Community Composition	
<b>Socioeconomic Data</b>	<b>Demographic Data</b>
Almost two-thirds of children live in poverty, and nearly half are in single-parent households.	About half of residents are African-American.
<b>Children Enrolled in Target Schools</b>	<b>Children Living in Footprint</b>
4,707 students	5,527 younger than 18 4,141 school-aged
<b># Schools Served</b>	<b>Types of Schools</b>
9	K-6; K-8; 7-8; 7-12; 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 in Northside Achievement Zone include:

### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND READINESS

NAZ-enrolled children are more likely to be kindergarten ready than their peers (49 percent vs. 35 percent, measured by reading and math proficiency).



### PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

NAZ has more than quadrupled its enrollment since 2012. As of July 2015, 873 families with 1867 children were actively enrolled.

Parent education through NAZ Family Academy is making an impact with teaching parents how to support their child's brain development: 77% of active participants in Family Academy parenting classes were proficient by the end of the session, compared with 24% of the control group.

### IMPROVING ACADEMIC OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

Longer enrollment in NAZ is associated with higher academic proficiency on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment for children in grades 3-5 for the 2013-2014 school year. Further, reading proficiency in NAZ-enrolled children increased at a greater rate than their peers.

### Partners continued

#### LEAD AGENCY

**Northside Achievement Zone**

#### PARTNER AGENCIES\* EXPANDED LEARNING & MENTORING

- AchieveMpls
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities
- Bolder Options
- Boys & Girls Club Patrick Henry Beacons
- Breakthrough Twin Cities
- College Possible
- Cookie Cart
- Juxtaposition Arts
- Kwanzaa 21st Century Academy
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC)
- Project Success
- YMCA Nellie Stone Johnson Beacons

#### HEALTH

- The Family Partnership
- Northpoint Health & Wellness Center
- Washburn Center for Children

#### CAREER & FINANCE

- Emerge Community Development
- Twin Cities RISE!

#### HOUSING

- Minneapolis Public Housing Authority
- Project for Pride in Living (PPL)
- Urban Homeworks

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## Key Challenges & Opportunities

For the past two years, NAZ has supported more than 100 children to enroll in high-quality early learning centers through federal Race to the Top funds administered through the Minnesota Department of Education. These funds end in mid-2015. Our partners are being brought together to troubleshoot the issue together.

A key NAZ Anchor School is transitioning from PreK-8 to PreK-5, reducing the student population, and a new Anchor middle school will be opening. This transition presents an opportunity to implement a suite of strategies designed to dramatically improve academic outcomes

for elementary students, but there are also challenges—logistical challenges in particular.

A limited amount of affordable, high quality housing is available in our community. One major barrier is that there simply isn't enough public housing or housing available through nonprofit organizations to meet demand, and housing owned by private landlords is frequently substandard. Our housing team continues to discuss options to address this situation, including both advocating for increased public investment and building stronger partnerships with private landlords.





## Making a Difference

The more than 34 organizations and 10 schools that make up the Northside Achievement Zone collaboration are transforming our community by permanently closing the achievement gap in North Minneapolis. Our greatest asset is the parents of our enrolled children. Our parents are stepping up as leaders in their homes, in their children’s schools, and in our community, and they are the true leaders that will drive lasting change. We’re already seeing clear evidence that we’re having an impact: recent analysis from Wilder Research shows

that the longer a child’s family is enrolled in NAZ, the better they do in school, and that each dollar invested in NAZ has a societal return on investment of more than six dollars. I believe we have a game-changing approach to eradicating the achievement gap and multi-generational poverty—not just for the children of North Minneapolis—but for our entire nation.

—Sondra Samuels, Northside Achievement Zone President & CEO



A Promise Neighborhood



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

Website: [promiseneighborhoods/ed.gov](http://promiseneighborhoods/ed.gov)

Email: [promiseneighborhoods@ed.gov](mailto:promiseneighborhoods@ed.gov)