

Indianola Promise Community

Indianola, Mississippi

2012 Promise Neighborhood Implementation Grantee

Mission

The Indianola Promise Community (IPC) unites health care, education, community, and faith-based services to create a pipeline of resources from prenatal care through high school graduation. The goal is to prepare children for school, improve their educational experience, keep them in school through graduation, provide a transition to postsecondary education and meaningful careers and, ultimately, break the cycle of poverty. Over the next 20 years, IPC expects to continue to scale up efforts with the goal of reaching 7,000 children.

Early Results

- 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.
- Developed the ability to track data on 87 percent of school-age children in the catchment area and provided services to 66 percent of the whole population from July 2013–June 2014.
- The IPC team established the Indianola Promise Community Early Education Collaborative, which consists of representatives from a variety of state and local childcare organizations who learn from each other, coordinate services, and collaborate on the early stage of the pipeline.
- Children who participated in the early reading intervention implemented by the Indianola Promise Neighborhood are twice as likely to be kindergarten ready in reading as the children who did not participate in the program/intervention (62 percent vs. 38 percent).

Timeline for the Work

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Whole public school reform and coordination of early childhood programs into continuum of services.	Increase efforts to engage 600 families and communities in students' college/career paths.	Expand services to additional college readiness and career training programs for adolescents and young adults.	Strengthen core and supplemental early childhood, school, and college/career readiness programs to facilitate sustainability.	Continue services while seeking expansion of program model to other rural communities.

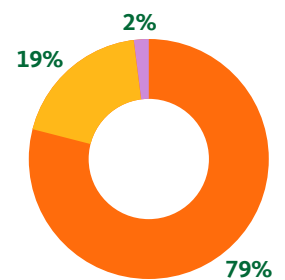
Community Served

Indianola is located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta and is home to 10,683 people. It is in one of the most disadvantaged areas of the country with a long history of lack of access to appropriate services, poor health outcomes, and intergenerational poverty. The unemployment rate is double the national rate.

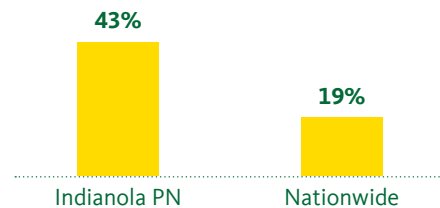
Neighborhood Composition

- African American
- White
- Other

Source: U.S.Census 2010.



Families at Low or Extremely Low Income Levels



Indianola Source: United States Census 2010.

National Source: US Census Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS).



Partners

Delta Health Alliance
AmeriCorps*VISTA
B.B. King Museum
City of Indianola
Children's Defense Fund
Mississippi Center for Education Innovation
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Department of Health
Mississippi Low Income Childcare Initiative
Save the Children
Sunflower County Childcare Association
Sunflower County Consolidated School District
Sunflower Humphreys Counties Progress, Inc.
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

What Is a Promise Neighborhood?

Promise Neighborhoods represent a 20-plus year commitment by local leaders to create communities of opportunity that allow children to learn, grow, and succeed. Based on the operating principles of the Harlem Children's Zone, Promise Neighborhoods build partnerships between schools, community organizations, local businesses, and community members to wrap children in high-quality, coordinated health, social, community, and educational support from cradle to career.

About the Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink

The Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink (PNI) helps build and sustain Promise Neighborhoods to ensure children are healthy, succeed in school, reach their full potential, and that families and neighborhoods support the healthy development, academic success, and well-being of their children.

PNI's system of technical assistance and disciplined approach moves communities from talk to action by:

- accelerating local leaders' ability to achieve results;
- building evidence that cradle to career systems are working across America; and
- supporting leaders' efforts to scale and sustain results.

From Promise Neighborhood Leaders

“Over the 2013–2014 academic year, our teacher professional development project yielded a positive baseline change of 26 percent in benchmark exam scores of English II students at our high school. Credit for this positive gain is due in large part to the disciplined, results-based approach the Indianola Promise Community has adopted since receiving technical assistance and coaching provided by the Promise Neighborhoods Institute. Specifically, PNI helped us to develop the performance measures which led us to modifying the project in a manner that resulted in an increase in benchmark exam scores.”

*—Josh Davis, Vice President for External Affairs
at Delta Health Alliance*

www.promiseneighborhoodsinstitute.org
www.policylink.org

Promise Neighborhoods Results & Indicators

The Promise Neighborhoods program is one of the most results-based and data-driven efforts in America focused on collective impact. Every Promise Neighborhood works toward making progress on the same 10 results and 15 indicators through a mix of solutions and strategies that include families, programs, policies, and systems.

Table 1. Education Results & Indicators

Results	Indicators
Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of children birth to kindergarten entry who have a place where they usually go, other than an emergency room, when they are sick or in need of advice about their health. • # and % of three-year-olds and children in kindergarten who demonstrate at the beginning of the program or school year age-appropriate functioning across multiple domains of early learning as determined using developmentally appropriate early learning measures. • # and % of children, from birth to kindergarten entry, participating in center-based or formal home-based early learning settings or programs, which may include Early Head Start, Head Start, child care, or preschool.
Students are proficient in core academic subjects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of students at or above grade level according to State mathematics and reading or language arts assessments in at least the grades required by the ESEA (third through eighth and once in high school).
Students successfully transition from middle school grades to high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance rate of students in sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grade.
Youth graduate from high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation rate.
High school graduates obtain a postsecondary degree, certification, or credential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of Promise Neighborhood students who graduate with a regular high school diploma and obtain postsecondary degrees, vocational certificates, or other industry-recognized certifications or credentials without the need for remediation.

Table 2. Family and Community Results & Indicators

Results	Indicators
Students are healthy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of children who participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily. • # & % of children who consume five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily; or possible third indicator, to be determined (TBD) by applicant.
Students feel safe at school and in their community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of students who feel safe at school and traveling to and from school, as measured by a school climate needs assessment; or possible second indicator, TBD by applicant.
Students live in stable communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student mobility rate; or possible second indicator, TBD by applicant.
Families and community members support learning in Promise Neighborhood schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For children birth to kindergarten entry, the # and % of parents or family members who report that they read to their child three or more times a week. • For children in kindergarten through the eighth grade, the # and % of parents or family members who report encouraging their child to read books outside of school. • For children in the ninth through twelfth grades, the # and % of parents or family members who report talking with their child about the importance of college and career; or possible fourth indicator TBD by applicant.
Students have access to 21st century learning tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of students who have school and home access (and % of the day they have access) to broadband Internet and a connected computing device; or possible second indicator TBD by applicant.