

PROMISE:

PROMOTING READINESS OF MINORS IN SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

PUBLIC INPUT NOTICE WEBINARS:

- ▶ **February 21, 2013**
- ▶ **February 27, 2013**
- ▶ **February 28, 2013**
- ▶ **March 5, 2013**

What Is PROMISE?

- The PROMISE program was proposed by the Administration to improve the education and career outcomes of low income children with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income.
- PROMISE advances the Administration's goal of fostering interagency collaboration at the Federal and State levels to improve services and drive innovation.

Learn more about PROMISE at:

www.ed.gov/promise

The Problem

- Upon entering adulthood, a significant number of child SSI recipients do not become independent, self-sufficient tax paying members of the community.
- Parents and families of many SSI recipients are not self-sufficient.

The Problem

The child SSI recipients who become adult SSI recipients continue to face many challenges:

- Low educational attainment and employment rates.
- Low postsecondary and/or vocational rehabilitation enrollment rates.

The Problem

Parents and other family members of child SSI recipients also face many challenges, and are in need of support services:

- One-third of the parents of child SSI recipients have less than a high school education; almost half of these children live in a household with at least one other person with a disability.
- Child SSI recipients and their families lack information about various work incentives available to them to help pursue activities that would increase self-sufficiency.

The Problem

The structure of services to help child SSI recipients transition to postsecondary education and competitive employment may also be a barrier to achieving self-sufficiency and independence:

- Not all child SSI recipients will receive transition services as an adult because many services, including vocational rehabilitation (VR) and mental health services, are not entitlements.
- There are also concerns related to gaps (e.g., differing eligibility requirements and goals) in the coordination of transition services provided by Federal, State, and local governments.

What We Know

- The current transition system has not been effective in supporting SSI recipients to become self-sufficient.
- However, certain practices can lead to positive outcomes:
 - Case management;
 - Benefits counseling;
 - Career and work-based learning experiences; and
 - Parent training and information.
- Each of these practices on their own has some positive effect, but there is no proven “package” of practices that has led to the desired outcomes.

What We Believe

Each State is unique:

- States are in the best position to incubate innovation.
- Given fiscal support, States will “braid” these known effective practices—along with other practices—to meet their unique needs.

What We Believe

Desired outcomes for children and their families include:

- Increased educational attainment;
- Improved rates of employment wages/earnings and job retention;
- Increased total household income; and
- Long-term reduction in SSI payments.

What We Know

- The most effective public policy is based on evidence.
- Randomized Control Trials are the highest standard for producing evidence.
- Model Demonstration Programs allow testing approaches in real-world settings.

The Purpose

- To improve the provision and coordination of services and supports for child SSI recipients between the ages of 14-16 at the time of enrollment, and their families, in order to achieve improved outcomes.
- ED and its Federal PROMISE partners intend to use the findings and results of these projects to inform public policy and to build an evidence base for improving postsecondary education and employment outcomes of child SSI recipients and their families.

PROMISE

Evaluation aspects will be undertaken in coordination with an external partner:

- Random assignment
- Data collection
 - School record review
 - Employment records
 - Service provision records
 - Others

Core Features

The core features of Promise projects will include:

- Strong and effective partnerships with agencies responsible for programs that play a key role in providing services to child SSI recipients and their families;
- A plan to provide a set of coordinated services and supports, and implement effective practices targeted to the needs of child SSI recipients and their families; and
- The capacity to achieve results, including the capacity to implement the required project design and adhere to data collection protocols in order to test and rigorously evaluate the results of the project.

Eligible Applicants

- Eligible applicants include:
 - The 50 states and the District of Columbia.
 - Multiple states may also apply together as a consortium.
- Other considerations include:
 - Must have a sufficient number of child SSI recipients between the ages of 14 and 16 to recruit the minimum sample size of 2,000.
 - States must enroll and randomly assign approximately 1,000 children and their families to a group that receives the MDP interventions (treatment group) and an additional 1,000 children and their families to another group that receives services they would ordinarily receive (control group).

Awards

- ED plans to fund approximately three to six cooperative agreements for three years with a two-year extension option.
- Estimated Range of Awards:
\$4,500,000 to \$10,000,000 per year.

Services and Supports

- The project must develop and implement interventions for child SSI recipients and their families, including a coordinated set of services and supports that the applicant believes will result in the desired outcomes.

Services and Supports

- Should include innovative methods of providing these services and supports, including coordinating and using resources available through existing programs or funding streams.
- All projects must provide or arrange for the following:
 - Case management;
 - Benefits counseling;
 - Career and work-based learning experiences; and
 - Parent training and information.

Partnerships

- Projects must establish a lead entity.
- Projects must establish a formal partnership with agencies and organizations in the State that can play a substantial role in the development and implementation of policies and practices affecting child SSI recipients and their families and in the provision of services and supports to those children and their families.

Partnerships

- At minimum, partnerships must include the State agencies or equivalents responsible for administering programs that provide the following services:
 - State vocational rehabilitation services;
 - Special education and related services;
 - Workforce Development services and Youth services;
 - Medicaid services;
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families;
 - Developmental/intellectual disabilities services; and
 - Mental health services.

Partnership Options

- Applicants may exclude a required partner with a strong justification.
- A minimum of three required partners, including the lead coordinating entity, must participate in the partnership.

Evaluation

- Each project must be designed to show progress in the key outcome measures to be evaluated under the PROMISE initiative.
- Social Security Administration (SSA) and Education will conduct a rigorous evaluation of the PROMISE program using randomized controlled trials to obtain evidence of the effectiveness of the interventions carried out under the PROMISE program. SSA will contract for an independent entity to assist.
- Projects will also conduct their own formative evaluations during the operation of the projects, including data collection for several performance measures.

Evaluation

- In collaboration with the national evaluator, the performance of the PROMISE projects will be assessed on the basis of established key outcome measures for participating child SSI recipients and their families.

Evaluation Targets

- Increase educational attainment (high school completion, graduation (diploma or equivalent) and enrollment and persistence in postsecondary education, training, or the military);
- Increase the number of individuals earning credentials after high school;
- Improve employment outcomes;
- Change the use of public benefits provided to the individual or family;
- Change total gross income of all the members of a household; and
- Reduce post-program SSI payments.

Your Input

Learn more about PROMISE:

www.ed.gov/promise

PROMISE Public Input Notice Blog:

www.ed.gov/promise/blog

Comments will be accepted until:

5:00pm on March 17, 2013

Key Dates

Application package available:

March 2013 (estimated)

Applications due:

June 2013 (estimated)

Grant period:

October 2013 to September 2018 (estimated)