

CASA de Maryland Learning Together

Project Abstract

CASA de Maryland is applying for an Investing in Innovation Development Grant under Absolute Priority 6 Improving Parent and Family Engagement – subpart (a): Developing and implementing initiatives that train parents and families to support their students in improving academic outcomes. Learning Together (LT) is an integrated, place-based parent engagement program to build parents' skills, confidence, and social capital to navigate the U.S. education system and decisively impact their students' academic outcomes despite Limited English Proficiency (LEP), low-education attainment, and immigrant/cultural challenges. LT will serve 3,800 students of all grade levels and has four main program components: **neighborhood-based promoters**, parents hired from the community to support their peers in gaining skills and accessing resources while developing a marketable set of skills; **parents-as-teachers classes**, with an emphasis on skills building and English language instruction; **family-school events**, bringing parents, teachers and students together to learn and celebrate; and **teacher-to-parent connections**, with a newly credentialed teacher professional development training. In addition to being a socially-robust, skill-building program for parents, LT is also a platform through which other programs and partners can reach and support parents and children creating a force multiplier effect that draws other resources to join in an integrated approach to improving outcomes, reducing costs, and accelerating results. Building on strong partnerships established through the Langley Park Promise Neighborhood, a 2012 ED planning grantee, LT is led by CASA de Maryland and Prince George's County Public Schools, with support from national and local organizations with extensive experience in parent engagement, program evaluation and immigrant communities.