

Title: **Empowering Families**

i3 Application: **Development**

Absolute Priority 6: **Improving Parent and Family Engagement (subpart A)**

The Providence Plan (a nonprofit working to improve the well-being of Providence residents) and the Providence Public School District will implement a project that builds the capacity of families with young children (grades K-3) to support their children's social-emotional and cognitive development, while enhancing the ability of these families to collaborate more effectively with their child's teachers and other school personnel.

Our project is centered on the widespread delivery of *Mind in the Making* training to 2,580 families, 240 teachers, and 160 other school staff. This research based, 8-module training is structured to help families focus on children's social-emotional and cognitive learning through the particular lens of children's executive function development.

With activities starting as early as kindergarten registration, our project will support the academic growth of children by focusing on parent and family engagement from the transition to kindergarten through the third grade. Improved school readiness and academic outcomes among students will be achieved through: 1) opportunities for joint training among families, teachers, and staff; 2) ongoing peer support for families in all 21 elementary schools; and 3) the implementation of a Parent University model that will be responsive to ongoing family needs.

Our project will yield measurable changes in parent involvement in both their children's learning and parent communication with teachers and staff. At the student level, we expect improvement in student engagement (attendance, homework completion.), better performance across learning domains (assessment data), and improvement in relevant executive function metrics (from student report cards).

Students served: 14,400

Partners: Providence Public School District, Centers for Women at Wellesley College, Families & Work Institute