



the Neighborhood Watch

PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS NEWSLETTER, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OII
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Welcome

The Promise Neighborhoods team in the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII) has created this newsletter to share information with communities that help achieve highly effective schools and strong systems of family and community support.

FEATURES

- WEBINARS
- BUILDING NEIGHBORHOODS BLOG
- DATA SYSTEMS

UPDATES

- COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE
- PROMISING PRACTICES
- RESOURCES FOR RESULTS
- F.A.Q. CENTRAL
- UPCOMING EVENTS

Promise Neighborhoods Institute Launches Webinars

A big "THANK YOU" to folks at Promise Neighborhoods Institute (PNI) for putting together an array of [webinars](#) for the 21 Promise grantees and members of the [Intensive Learning Partnership](#). We have received very positive feedback about the effectiveness and structure of the webinars and look forward to learning more from future presentations. PNI encourages participants to use the chat feature at webinars to ask questions during the presentation and follow up with the appropriate source for further assistance.

Building Neighborhoods Blog Focuses on Needs Assessment

Patrick Lester, senior vice president for public policy at the [United Neighborhoods Centers of America](#), has provided valuable information through his [blog](#). In particular, the [lessons learned](#) review and the [needs assessment guide](#) are helpful resources for Promise Neighborhoods applicants, present and future.

The Promise of Communities of Practice

A great part of the answer to how we dramatically improve education in our country lies not only in the types of strategies we pursue, but also in how education researchers and practitioners share information with each other. Recognizing the value of building systems for peer-to-peer professional learning among teachers and other education leaders, the Office of Innovation and Improvement has a new [blog](#), which explores new approaches to building "communities of practice" in Promise Neighborhoods and the Office of Education Technology. Larkin Tackett, deputy director of Promise Neighborhoods, and Karen Cator, director of the Office of Educational Technology, discuss strategies for increasing spaces to collaborate, share knowledge, and problem solve about best practices to close the achievement gap.

Read the complete text [here](#).

Promising Practices

You see, we know what's possible from our children when reform isn't just a top-down mandate, but the work of local teachers and principals, school boards and communities.

PRESIDENT
BARACK OBAMA

2011 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Last week, the Promise Neighborhoods (PN) planning grantee in Houston, Texas, conducted a visioning session during which community members and other interested people could discuss the possibilities for the Gulfton Neighborhood. Participants split up into groups and shared their vision for the neighborhood. They then drew pictures to visually depict their ideas, and presented their goals and vision to the other groups. This was a strategy to give community members a voice and to see what a Promise Neighborhood looked like to different individuals.



Gulfton community members drawing their vision of a Promise Neighborhood.

WALKING TALL



Toni Van Buren and the folks in San Antonio, Texas, recently participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade. With over 100,000 participants, San Antonio's parade is one of the largest in the nation.

Want to be featured in Promising Practices?
Contact PromiseNeighborhoods@ed.gov

BEREA BLOGS ABOUT PROGRESS

The Berea College PN grantee of Clay, Jackson, and Owsley Counties in Kentucky has recently launched a weekly blog to share their progress. Through this blog, Berea continues to utilize communities of practice in their work, especially with similarly situated rural communities hoping to expand and scale the Harlem Children's Zone model.

Visit the blog at: <http://www.bereapromise.org/>

IDEA OF THE MONTH:

The Promise Neighborhoods FY 2010 Notice Inviting Applications asks organizations how they will plan, build, adapt, or expand a comprehensive, longitudinal data management system, while abiding by federal, state and other privacy laws and requirements. The utilization of "directory information," which may be available from schools, can be helpful in the needs assessment and may be a good place for organizations to start their work on the longitudinal data system. High school graduation rates at the student level may be obtained through directory information.

It's All About the Data System



The Promise Neighborhoods (PN) program requires planning grantees to plan, build, adapt, or expand a comprehensive longitudinal data management system (LDS). This system should include all academic, family and community support, and additional neighborhood indicators, such as demographic characteristics. Several communities have asked for guidance regarding how quickly the system should be up and running. Some of the grantees already have identified a data system and need to incorporate PN indicators. Other sites are starting from scratch and they have to make the tough decisions about contracting with an outside entity or building their own LDS. Regardless of the current position, the goals are for communities to be ready to implement their system at the end of the planning phase and ultimately that the system incorporate student-level data from multiple sources. As communities work toward these goals, costs to develop and support a data system are an important consideration. Planning grantees are reminded to reach out to their Department of Education contact if there are changes in budget costs associated with the data system.



Questions or Concerns?
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Resources for Results

Your guide to opportunities for funding, collaboration, and outreach with federal, state, and local providers

Grants for Communities to Support Learning

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has created the Learn and Serve America Youth Engagement Zones grants, which will fund schools and organizations to improve academic engagement and achievement.

The grants will provide up to three years of funding to partnerships that connect school districts, community colleges, and community organizations in a close collaboration. Youths will learn and serve in a defined geographic area – a “Youth Engagement Zone” – that includes schools and school districts in which 70 percent or less of the students graduate and 70 percent or more live below the poverty level.

Funding for this grant competition is contingent on the enactment of the Fiscal Year 2011 budget for CNCS. Click here: http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=86 for more information about this funding opportunity and instructions on how to apply. Notices of intent to apply are due by 5 pm EST, March 10, 2011, and applications are due March 31st.

Resources to Ensure Students Are Healthy

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is offering Health Center Planning Grants to help develop proposals for new health centers by targeting planning and developmental efforts in areas not currently served by a funded health center and/or in areas of unmet need. For more information, visit: <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/apply/assistance/planning/>. Applications are due by 8 pm EST, March 18, 2011.

\$1 Million for Talent Development in Cities

The Talent Dividend Prize is a \$1 million prize to be awarded to the city that exhibits the greatest increase in the number of postsecondary degrees granted per 1,000 people over a four-year period. This \$1 million prize will be used to launch a national promotional campaign for the winning city to showcase its talent development. Register by May 1, 2011 at the following site:

<http://ceosforcities.org/talent/>

Planning Resources for Focusing on Student Development

The Promise Neighborhoods Research Consortium (PNRC) comprises more than 30 behavioral scientists assisting high-poverty neighborhoods in identifying and measuring critical developmental outcomes for each phase of youth development. PNRC has specified key parent, peer, and school influences on development as well as other influences, such as poverty and neighborhood disorganization. Along with measuring outcomes and influences, the PNRC can also help neighborhoods identify programs, policies, and practices that research has shown can make a significant difference in young peoples' development. Finally, PNRC can help neighborhoods design strategies for evaluating the benefits of anything they do to improve child and adolescent development. Visit the PNRC website at <http://promiseneighborhoods.org/>.

For more information, contact Tony Biglan at tony@ori.org.

F.A.Q. CENTRAL

Please submit your questions! We will post our responses to questions from grantees and others here.

Q - When will ED announce the 2011 Promise Neighborhoods (PN) competition?

A - ED anticipates releasing in the next several weeks the FY 2011 Notice of Proposed Priorities for PN competitions. ED will be able to announce the FY 2011 competition once a Notice of Final Priorities for the PN Program is published.

Q - What is the Department's definition of "remediation?"

A - There is not a federal definition of remediation. Communities should review state laws and regulations, and consider partnering with local colleges and universities to develop a definition.

Q - When will ED announce the funding status for Promise Neighborhoods?

A - Assistant Deputy Secretary Jim Shelton said recently, "Funding for Promise Neighborhoods in FY 2011 will not provide the level of implementation resources we had initially hoped for and requested. Our hope is that decision makers will recognize PN as an investment in multiplying the impact of the billions of taxpayer dollars that go into communities in (agency) silos today—recognizing that you can't cut your way to excellence."

Upcoming Events

3/1 1-2 PM EST

American Youth Policy Forum Webinar: Using Data to Align Resources to Create a Comprehensive Learning System

Space is limited.

Reserve your webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/933051152>

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