

Federal Funding Alert

May 14, 2010



1900 Grant Street, Ste. 400 Denver, CO 80203 866.864.5266 www.nursefamilypartnership.org

Promise Neighborhoods RFA Released

Promise Neighborhoods

US Department of Education – Office of Innovation & Improvement RFA:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/applicant.html>

Important Deadlines:

Letter of Intent – May 21st, 2010

Application due – June 25th, 2010

Intergovernmental review – August 24th, 2010

Funding Breakdown:

Total FY2010 funding: \$10 million

Number of Awards: Up to 20

Average Award Size: \$500,000

Overview

The Department of Education recently announced its request for applications for the FY2010 Promise Neighborhoods grant program. Promise Neighborhoods is intended to significantly improve education and development outcomes of our most at-risk communities (including rural and tribal communities). Because the challenges faced by communities with high concentrations of poverty are interrelated, Promise Neighborhoods is taking a comprehensive approach designed to ensure that children have access to a continuum of cradle-through-college-to-career solutions, with strong schools at the center, that will support academic achievement, healthy development, and college and career success.

In FY2010, the Department of Education will award one-year planning grants to support the development of a plan to implement a Promise Neighborhood. At the conclusion of the planning grant period, grantees should have a feasible plan to implement a continuum of solutions that will significantly improve results for children in the community being served. President Obama has proposed a significant investment of \$210 million for Promise Neighborhoods in FY2011. In subsequent years, contingent on the availability of funds, the Department intends to conduct competitions for implementation grants, as well as competitions for new planning grants.

Promise Neighborhoods is a national call for collaboration among communities to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by improving education outcomes and life course prospects for our most at-risk children and families. This new program is based on the highly effective Harlem Children's Zone model, and many stakeholders interested in establishing a Promise Neighborhood attended the Harlem Children's Zone conference earlier this year. NFP-NSO will provide a list of the conference participants to assist NFP implementing agencies in connecting with interested organizations or potential Promise Neighborhoods applicants in your region. While Promise Neighborhoods is not a direct service opportunity for Nurse-Family Partnership, we encourage our implementing agencies to proactively pursue partnerships with other potential applicants or local participants engaged in creating a Promise Neighborhood. Nurse-Family Partnership has the potential to be a strong component/contributor of communities' efforts to build a Promise Neighborhood. By embedding Nurse-Family Partnership in a

cradle-to-career continuum, we can help schools, LEAs, and other eligible grantees to build a broad spectrum of effective services that have a proven track record of improving outcomes for low-income, harder to reach populations.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible entities include: nonprofit organizations which may include faith-based organizations; and institutions of higher education. According to the Promise Neighborhoods Request for Applications, eligible entities must have the capacity to complete the following functions/services in communities:

- Operate a school; or partner with at least one school in the geographic area proposed to be served in coordination with the school's local educational agency (LEA);
- Focus on a neighborhood in which there are multiple signs of distress based on indicators of need or other relevant information;
- Currently provide at least one of the solutions from the applicant's continuum of cradle-through-college-to-career solutions in the geographic area proposed to be served; and
- Be representative of the geographic area proposed to be served. This means that residents of the geographic area have an active role in decision-making and that at least one-third of the entity's governing board or advisory board is made up of:
 - Residents who live in the geographic area proposed to be served;
 - Residents of the city or county in which the neighborhood is located who are low-income;
 - Public officials who serve the geographic area proposed to be served (although not more than one-half of the governing board or advisory board may be made up of public officials); or
 - Some combination of individuals from these three groups.

Eligible Activities

Promise Neighborhood grantees will work to transform communities by:

- Supporting efforts to improve child outcomes and ensure that the outcomes are communicated and analyzed on an ongoing basis by leaders and members of the community;
- Identifying and increasing the capacity of eligible entities that are focused on achieving results and building a college-going culture in the neighborhood;
- Building a continuum of academic programs and family and community supports, from the cradle through college to career, with a strong school or schools at the center;
- Integrating programs and breaking down agency "silos" so that solutions are implemented effectively and efficiently across agencies;
- Supporting the efforts of eligible entities, working with local governments, to build the infrastructure of policies, practices, systems, and resources needed to sustain and "scale up" proven, effective solutions across the broader region beyond the initial neighborhood; and
- Learning about the overall impact of Promise Neighborhoods and about the relationship between particular strategies in Promise Neighborhoods and student outcomes, including a rigorous evaluation of the program.

FY2010 Planning Grants

The Department of Education will award one-year grants to support the development of a plan to implement a Promise Neighborhood in which schools, academic programs, and family and community supports must include the following core features:

- The capacity to collect, analyze and use data to evaluate the success of their efforts;
- Close integration so that time and resource gaps that contribute to children missing academic and developmental milestones do not occur;
- A leader and an organization that can engage the community and are accountable for results; and
- A "place-based" approach, which leverages investments by focusing resources in targeted places, drawing on the compounding effect of well-coordinated actions.

Absolute Priorities

- **Absolute Priority 1** – All applicants must meet the requirements of Absolute Priority 1 to be considered for a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant. To meet this priority, an applicant must submit a proposal for how it will plan to create a Promise Neighborhood. This proposal must:
 - Describe the geographically defined area to be served and the level of distress in that area;
 - Describe how the applicant will plan to build a continuum of cradle-through-college-to-career solutions for children in the neighborhood;
 - Describe the applicant’s organizational capacity to plan and implement a Promise Neighborhood;
 - Describe how the applicant will plan to sustain and “scale up” the project over time;
 - Describe the commitment the applicant anticipates receiving from partners;
 - Describe how the applicant will plan to track available funding sources;
 - Describe how the applicant will identify policies or regulations that would impede the project;
 - Describe how the applicant will use data;
 - Describe how the applicant will work with a national evaluator for Promise Neighborhoods;
 - Identify and describe the indicators that the applicant will use for a needs assessment.
- **Absolute Priority 2** – Promise Neighborhoods in rural communities. The Secretary establishes a priority for applicants that meet all requirements in absolute priority 1 AND serve one or more rural communities only.
- **Absolute Priority 3** – Promise Neighborhoods in tribal communities. The Secretary establishes a priority for applicants that meet all requirements in absolute priority 1 and serve one or more Indian tribes.

Cost-Sharing or Matching

To be eligible for an award, an applicant must demonstrate that an established commitment by one or more entities in the public or private sector to provide matching funds or in-kind donations for the planning process. An applicant under Absolute Priority 1 must secure funds equal to at least 50 percent of its grant award. An applicant that meets the criteria for Absolute Priority 2 (Rural Communities) or Absolute Priority 3 (Tribal Communities) must obtain matching funds or in-kind donations equal to at least 25 percent of the grant award

We encourage existing and potential implementing agencies to utilize this opportunity to identify effective community partners and cultivate strong relationships among organizations within a Promise Neighborhood continuum. If you have any questions regarding this funding alert, please contact your Program Developer and/or Sarah McGee of the Policy & Government Affairs Department at 303.865.8384 or sarah.mcgee@nursefamilypartnership.org.