



MBAE Fact Sheet: Promise Neighborhoods

[Promise Neighborhoods](#) is a federal program to improve the education and development of children in the country's neediest communities. Funding will support plans for comprehensive "cradle-through-college-to-career" solutions that will significantly improve results for children. The program is modeled on the success of programs like the [Harlem Children's Zone](#).

The Promise Neighborhoods Program is a competitive grant program for nonprofit organizations and higher education institutions. Approximately 20 grantees will receive a \$400-500k planning grant and are expected to obtain matching funds or in-kind donations from public or private sources as well. With \$10 million allocated for this program, implementation grants will follow for the grantees while the planning grant competition continues.

Applicants must propose plans to create a "Promise Neighborhood" that do the following:

- Describe the area and level of distress in that area;
- Describe how the applicant will plan to 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; and
- Identify and describe the indicators that the applicant will use for a needs assessment.

Letters of Intent to Apply were due on May 21st. The following 15 Massachusetts organizations submitted such letters: Action for Boston Community Development, Associated Early Care and Education, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Urban Initiative, Community Day Care of Lawrence, Russian Community Association of Massachusetts, Robert R. Taylor Network, Tufts University, International Institute of Boston, Western Massachusetts Training Consortium, Berkshire Children and Families, Massachusetts Teachers Association, New North Citizens' Council, Springfield Technical Community College, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, United Way of Central Massachusetts. These organizations seek to serve the following cities or regions: Boston, Fall River, Lawrence, Lynn, Medford, Merrimack Valley, Orange, Pittsfield, Springfield, Dudley Street neighborhood, Worcester.

Final applications are due on June 25th, will be reviewed over the summer, and planning grant awards will be announced by September 2010.