

U.S. Department of Education Announces 2010 Promise Neighborhoods Grantees

September 21, 2010 – Washington, D.C. - Today, national research and action institute PolicyLink joined with Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, and other senior administration officials at an afternoon press conference on Capitol Hill to announce the 2010 federal Promise Neighborhoods planning grant recipients.

Inspired by the comprehensive anti-poverty efforts of the Harlem Children's Zone, the Promise Neighborhoods program is providing \$10 million in competitive planning grants to help design a pipeline of educational, social, and health supports for children in some of the nation's poorest areas. President Obama requested \$210 million in implementation resources for the program in FY 2011, though that funding is still awaiting approval in Congress.

The twenty-one planning grantees – from rural, urban, suburban, and tribal communities across America – will receive up to \$500,000 each to design their own pipeline of programs and services that expand access to quality education, healthcare, and other vital needs in their areas.

"We must realize the untapped potential that exists in our poorest communities, and make it possible for all children – regardless of race or socioeconomic background – to succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy," said PolicyLink Founder & CEO Angela Glover Blackwell. "The Promise Neighborhoods Initiative is an unprecedented step towards enacting real, tangible changes that will provide poor children with a fair and equitable opportunity to achieve their dreams. We must keep our promise to all of America's children."

The grantees are;

Abyssinian Development Corporation (New York City, NY)
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation (Saint Paul, MN)
Athens-Clarke County Family Connection (Athens Clarke County, GA)
Berea College (Clay, Jackson, and Owsley Counties, KY)
Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation (Northern Cheyenne Reservation, MT)
California State University East Bay Foundation, Inc. (Hayward, CA)
Cesar Chavez Public Policy Charter High School (Washington, D.C.)
Community Day Care Center of Lawrence (Lawrence, MA)
Delta Health Alliance, Inc. (Indianola, MS)
Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (Boston, MA)
The Guidance Center, (River Rouge, MI)
Lutheran Family Health Centers / Lutheran Medical Center (Brooklyn, NY)
Morehouse School of Medicine, Inc. (Atlanta, GA)
Neighborhood Centers, Inc. (Houston, TX)
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission (Los Angeles, CA)
United Way of Central Massachusetts (Worcester, MA)
United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County -- Partners for Community Change (San Antonio, TX)
University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Little Rock, AK)
University Community Homes (Philadelphia, PA)
Westminster Foundation (Buffalo, NY)
Youth Policy Institute (Los Angeles, CA)

More than 330 communities from around the country applied for planning grants in June. To help, the Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink has been working with applicants on developing a Promise Neighborhoods model that fits the needs and priorities of their constituents.

The Institute will continue working with grantees throughout this year's planning period and the implementation application process for FY2011, providing technical support for planning, coalition building, needs assessments, and other valuable tools and strategies. In addition, the Institute will continue to work with non-grantees to help them further their plans or apply for additional planning or implementation grants in the future.

"Cities and communities across the country have been working tirelessly to find solutions that work, but they cannot do it alone," said Blackwell. "By providing these vital tools and resources, the Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink will continue to help underserved areas effectively invest in our children's health and education, and chart a new course for our nation's future."

Last November, PolicyLink and Harlem Children's Zone convened more than 1,500 national, local, and community leaders at the "Changing the Odds" conference in New York City to discuss how to create a national paradigm based on the HCZ model, marking the first of many steps towards providing the fundamental resources needed to lift up poor communities.

Less than a year later, some of the nation's most impoverished areas will now have the chance to build their own communities of opportunity, and improve quality of life for millions of poor children and families.

ABOUT POLICYLINK

PolicyLink (www.policylink.org) is a national research and advocacy institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works. Founded in 1999, PolicyLink helps create sustainable communities of opportunity that offer access to quality jobs, affordable housing, good schools, affordable transportation, and healthy food. The organization is based in Oakland (Calif.), with offices in New York City, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and New Orleans.

ABOUT THE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS INSTITUTE AT POLICYLINK

The Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink provides support to Promise Neighborhoods to ensure that all children live in communities of opportunity that enable them to learn, grow, and succeed. The Institute--a nonprofit, independent organization--helps build and sustain Promise Neighborhoods that wrap children in education, health, and social supports from the cradle to college to career. The Institute manages a hub of high-quality technical assistance providers and consultants, including PolicyLink, Harlem Children's Zone, and the Center for the Study of Social Policy.