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## Promise Neighborhood Investment Readiness Criteria

To support sustaining local leader's efforts, to achieve collective impact by improving the educational and developmental outcomes for poor children in America, the Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink (PNI) is working to attract additional investment to network member's Promise Neighborhood cradle-to-career continuum of solutions. Network members meeting **ALL** of the criteria described below may submit requests for funding to their peers.

### Common Agenda

- In order to achieve population-level results<sup>1</sup> for poor children, leaders are building cradle-to-career continua of solutions that are ensuring that at least \_\_\_\_\_ children and youth in some of our nation's poorest communities have a pathway into the middle class that includes growing up in communities of opportunity with access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support that will prepare children to attain an excellent education and successfully transition to college and/or a career.

### Shared Measurement

- **Common Results and Indicators** – Multi-sector work to achieve population-level results is under way on one or more of the following Promise Neighborhoods results; and early progress is being made to achieve targets for the following measures of progress:
  - **Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school**
    1. # and % of children, from birth to kindergarten entry, who have a place where they usually go, other than an emergency room, when they are sick or in need of advice about their health.
    2. # and % of three-year-olds and children in kindergarten who demonstrate at the beginning of the program or school year age-appropriate functioning across multiple domains of early learning (as defined in this notice) as determined using developmentally appropriate early learning measures (as defined in this notice).
    3. # & % of children, from birth to kindergarten entry, participating in center-based or formal home-based early learning settings or programs, which may include Early Head Start, Head Start, child care, or preschool.
  - **Students successfully transition from middle school to high school**
    4. # & % of students at or above grade level according to State mathematics and reading or language arts assessments in at least the grades required by the ESEA

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<sup>1</sup> At least 50% of children and families are connected to needed services and supports and are experiencing improved results.

(3rd through 8th and once in high school).

- **Students successfully transition from middle school to high school**
  - 5. Attendance rate of students in 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade
- **Youth graduate from high school**
  - 6. Graduation rate
- **High school graduates obtain a postsecondary degree or credential**
  - 7. # & % of Promise Neighborhood students who graduate with a regular high school diploma, as defined in 34 CFR 200.19(b)(1)(iv), and obtain postsecondary degrees, vocational certificates, or other industry-recognized certifications or credentials without the need for remediation.
- **Students are healthy**
  - 8. # & % of children who participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily;
  - 9. # & % of children who consume five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily
- **Students feel safe at school and in their community**
  - 10. # & % of students who feel safe at school and traveling to and from school, as measured by a school climate needs assessment.
- **Students live in stable communities**
  - 11. Student mobility rate
- **Families and community members support learning in PN schools**
  - 12. For children birth to kindergarten entry, the # and % of parents or family members who report that they read to their child three or more times a week
  - 13. For children in the kindergarten through eighth grades, the # and % of parents or family members who report encouraging their child to read books outside of school
  - 14. For children in the ninth through twelfth grades, the # and % of parents or family members who report talking with their child about the importance of college and career
- **Students have access to 21st century learning tools**
  - 15. # & % of students who have school and home access (and % of the day they have access) to broadband internet and a connected computing device
- **Promise Scorecard** – For the phases of the cradle-to-career continuum of solutions being implemented, there is a fully developed Promise Scorecard, and it is being used as a management tool to move stakeholders from talk to action.
- **Case Management/Longitudinal Data System** – For the phases of the cradle-to-career continuum of solutions being implemented, there is a fully operational case management/longitudinal data system that is tracking stakeholder interventions and impacts on

individual children and/or family members. This system must contain high-quality<sup>2</sup>, student-level academic and non-academic data.

## Mutually Reinforcing Activities

- **Accountability Structure** – There is a clearly defined accountability structure and evidence that accountability partners are regularly assessing stakeholders’ performance against targets, and taking the necessary actions to continuously improve so that targets are consistently being met or exceeded.
- **Disciplined Execution** – In order to achieve results, Results Based Accountability (RBA), is being implemented and sites are able to demonstrate progress meeting and/or exceeding their annual targets and sharing lessons being learned among their stakeholders. This is evidenced by a fully developed Promise Scorecard for the phases of the cradle-to-career continuum of solutions being implemented. The scorecard must contain:
  - **Baselines** – A core expectation of each Promise Neighborhood is that the targeted community will see a substantial increase the number of youth and families served over time. To calculate the Promise Neighborhood’s penetration rate, Promise Neighborhoods should determine their baseline population counts.
  - **Targets** – The backbone organization will want to establish an overall target for the entire Promise Neighborhood (e.g., all children who either live in the Promise Neighborhood or attend a target school), as well as separate population targets for specific solutions (e.g., an afterschool program that serves students attending a Promise Neighborhood middle school). Similarly, stakeholders need to be clear about the populations for which data will be collected and tracked. Ideally, these data target populations will align with the program target populations. Additionally, Targets must demonstrate substantial scale will be achieved within five to ten years; and neighborhood residents, just like other stakeholders, must have quantifiable contributions to make to the achievement of yearly targets. Substantial scale is defined as reaching at least 50 percent of the population that needs a specific solution.
  - **Best Evidenced Solutions** – The cradle-to-career continuum of solutions must be grounded in the best available evidence and include the right mix of solutions e.g., families, programs, policies and systems.
  - **Performance Measures** – Stakeholders have written agreements wherein they are assigned to implement solutions with negotiated performance measures that correlate with yearly targets. Performance measures may be for a program, agency, service system or strategy and must identify: (1) how much we did, (2) how well we did it, and (3) is anyone better off.

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<sup>2</sup> High quality data is data that is consistent with guidance found in: *Measuring Performance: A Guidance Document for Promise Neighborhoods on Collecting Data and Reporting Results*. This document can be found on the PNI website at [www.promiseneighborhoodsinstitute.org/Technical-Assistance/Data-Center/Guidance-Document](http://www.promiseneighborhoodsinstitute.org/Technical-Assistance/Data-Center/Guidance-Document)

## Continuous Communication

- **Accountability Structure** – There is a clearly defined accountability structure and evidence that accountability partners are regularly assessing stakeholders’ performance against targets, communicating expectations for scaling solutions and taking the necessary actions to continuously improve so that targets are consistently being met or exceeded.
- **Neighborhood Accountability** – In partnership with neighborhood residents, accountability partners are regularly communicating progress meeting targets for the phases of the cradle-to-career continuum of solutions being implemented as well as substantial returns on investment. Additionally, Promise Scorecard data must be regularly made available to the public.

## Backbone Support Organizations

- **Board of Directors Leadership** – The lead agency/backbone organization has a board of directors that is raising a substantial portion of the operating budget and ensuring that the accountability structure is being effectively implemented.
- **Coordination and Management** – The lead agency/backbone organization is working with the accountability partners and stakeholders implementing solutions to ensure that all of the aforementioned activities are being implemented in a disciplined manner, resulting in targets being consistently met or exceeded.