

Our Children, Our Families Council
Summary of the Mission Promise Neighborhood
(Last Updated 4/23/15)

Goals of the Effort

The Mission Promise Neighborhood (MPN) is a five year neighborhood initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. MPN brings together successful local nonprofits and public and private partners to work with kids and families to empower the community, break cycles of poverty, and ensure every child can reach his or her full potential, from cradle to college and career.

The "Promise Neighborhoods" model builds on successful efforts of the Harlem Children's Zone, which provides children and families with high-quality, coordinated educational, health, social, and community supports from cradle to college to career. MPN will provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services so that children and families in San Francisco's Mission District prosper in a safe, culturally relevant and economically prosperous community.

MPN's vision is to build a future where every child excels and every family succeeds. Students enter school ready for success, and graduate from high school prepared for college and career. The Mission District thrives as a healthy and safe community that provides families and their children the opportunity to prosper economically and to call San Francisco their permanent home.

Focal Population of the Effort

MPN focuses on providing wrap-around services for children and families in San Francisco's Mission District. These coordinated services serve children from cradle up through college and career, and adults.

Impact

Since MPN began receiving the Department of Education's 5-year community grant in 2013, MPN has brought together diverse stakeholders to improve outcomes for Mission children and families. Within its first year, MPN conducted a thorough survey of Latino families in the Mission District and published a report with the results. Since publishing the report, MPN has been using the findings to inform next steps for improving services for the Mission's children and families.

Challenges

Despite receiving a 5-year, \$30 million grant from the Department of Education and supplemental funds from other philanthropic organizations, MPN's greatest challenge remains a lack of resources. While they have the resources to implement changes in services for children and families in the area, more is needed to address the root causes of the difficulties that families in the Mission experience. MPN is also already concerned with the sustainability of the initiative once the 5-year grant ends in 2017.

Origins of the Effort

Over the course of 2012, the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) worked with the San Francisco Unified School District, the Office of Mayor Ed Lee, the *John W. Gardner Center* for Youth and Their Communities at Stanford University and the United Way of the Bay Area, as well as various city agencies and community-based organizations to write an implementation proposal that was submitted in July 2012. During the year-long planning process, partners worked to create a continuum of services that would meet the Mission District's needs, with a focus on low-income Latino students and families and students at Cesar Chavez Elementary, Bryant Elementary, Everett Middle School, and John O'Connell High School.

In December of 2012, the U.S. Department of Education selected MEDA to receive a five-year, \$30 million Promise Neighborhoods implementation grant to implement a plan to create true innovation and ensure children, youth and families in the Mission have strong schools, opportunities to become economically successful, and robust systems of family and community support that will allow them to thrive.

Leading the Effort

Raquel Donoso, MPH, serves as the Director of Mission Promise Neighborhood. Her position and 7 other full-time positions are funded by the \$30 million Promise Neighborhood grant and by additional philanthropic support.

Members of the Effort

MPN has 17 staff members. MPN also partners with over 33 government and community-based organizations to help MPN fulfill its promise to the Mission community.

Mission Promise Neighborhood Staff:

Raquel Donoso, Director
Victor Corral, Direct of Programs
Liz Cortez, MPN Leadership Academy Manager
Jacinto Noriega, Technology Manager
Leah Cerri, Volunteer Services Manager
Teresa Morales-Phillips, Community Engagement Manager
Ada Alvarado, Early Learning Family Success Coach

MPN Family Success Coaches:

Amelia M. Martinez Cantos, Instituto Familiar de la Raza & Mission Neighborhood Health Center
Alba Juarez, Bryant Elementary & Good Samaritan
Celina Ramos-Castro, Cesar Chavez Elementary
Roberto Aparicio, Everett Middle School
Dannielle Glover, John O'Connell High School

Mission Promise Neighborhood Promoters:

Ana Alfaro
Evelyn Alfaro
Mayra Alfaro
Maria de Lourdes Dobaranes
Alicia Ruiz Cortes

Participating Schools:

Cesar Chavez Elementary School
Bryant Elementary School
Everett Middle School
John O'Connell High School

Mission Promise Neighborhood Partner Organizations:

Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) – Lead Agency
Causa Justa: Just Cause
Children's Council of San Francisco
Council of Community Housing Organizations (CCHO)
Department of Children, Youth, & their Families (DCYF)
Felton Institute
First 5 San Francisco
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
Instituto Familiar de la Raza
Jamestown Community Center
John W. Gardner Center
La Raza Centro Legal

Mission Graduates
Mission Language and Vocational School (MLVS)
Mission Neighborhood Centers (MNC)
Mission Neighborhood Health Center (MNHC)
My Path
Nurse-Midwives of SF General Hospital
Parents for Public Schools (PPS)
Raising A Reader
Refugee Transitions
San Francisco Department of Public Health
San Francisco Department of Technology
San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD)
San Francisco Office of the Mayor
San Francisco Treasurer's Office of Financial Empowerment
San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)
Seven Tepees
Streetside Stories
Support for Families of Children with Disabilities
UCSF Healthy Environments and Response to Trauma in Schools (HEARTS)
UCSF Infant-Parent Program
United Way of the Bay Area

Structure of the Effort

MPN has quarterly partner meetings, which are generally attended by roughly 80 individuals, most of which are executive directors or other leaders of MPN's partner organizations. Upwards of 90% of partner organizations are represented at the quarterly meetings. In addition, MPN has two action teams – service integration and leadership – both of which meet separately once per quarter to discuss progress on team objectives. MPN also has an advisory council comprised of Maria Su, Director of the Department of Children, Youth, & their Families, Hydra Mendoza-McDonnell, Mayor Lee's Senior Advisory on Education & Family Services, and representatives from the Department of Public Health. This advisory council attends quarterly meetings as necessary.

The Role of Data

As noted above, MPN relies extensively on data from community surveys, from the San Francisco Unified School District, and from its many partner organizations and agencies. They are also building a database to track services delivered to their target families.

Related Documents

- Mission Promise Neighborhood's website <<http://missionpromise.org/>>
- Baseline Results from the 2014 MPN Neighborhood Survey:
<http://medasf.org/redesign/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/1428-03242015_MPN-Neighborhood-Survey_v10.pdf>