

The Village For Families and Children Promise Neighborhood Lead Organization Application

Describe your organization's capacity to plan and implement a Promise Neighborhood, including your organization's experience and lessons learned, in all of the following areas:

1. Working with the schools described in paragraph 2 of this priority; the LEA in which those schools are located; Federal, State, and local government leaders; and other service providers.

The Village has deep and long experience partnering with the Hartford Public School System. We currently are lead agency at four Hartford schools, including SAND elementary school in Clay Arsenal. As one of the oldest human service organizations in the country (in our 200th year!), we have strong working relationships with governmental leaders and regulators at all levels.
2. Serving the neighborhood and its residents. Include a description of the applicant's and partners' historical commitment and service to the neighborhood.

The Village serves all neighborhoods in Hartford with a variety of child and family supportive programming aimed towards ensuring that families and children are equipped to succeed and contribute to their neighborhoods and to our larger society. The Village is well known in the Clay Arsenal area where we operate specific afterschool programming at SAND that reaches over 150 children and families. The Village has recently agreed with HPS to increase its services for the children in nine schools (including SAND) by offering clinical services on site.
3. Collecting, analyzing, and using data for decision-making and ongoing improvement.

The Village has invested in people and technology around data and measurement of results. The Village's Organizational Performance Department collects data and reports on the progress and results of programs and consistently works with external evaluators and will compile results of client satisfaction surveys and outcome measures for Village programs. In addition to our relentless focus on achieving measurement targets with our clients, we recognize that successful results encourage support from a wide variety of funding sources. We use the Results based Accountability (RBA) framework combined with timely data and defined success metrics to evaluate our program outcomes, and we employ Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) software as the vehicle to support data needs, monitor processes and outcomes, and manage our work. We also communicate with the community around outcome metrics via inclusion in our Annual Report.
4. Creating formal and informal relationships and generating community support to achieve results.

Having been part of the Hartford community for 200 years, we have developed significant relationships and collaborations with other service organizations (e.g., Hartford Asset Building Collaborative, Community School partnerships, Greater Hartford System of Care, etc.)
5. Securing and integrating funding streams from multiple public and private sources.

We enjoy strong relationships with a wide variety of public and private funders. Many of our programs are funded through a combination of public and private funding, including foundation and individual. The Village is in the 2nd year of a \$5 million Agency Bi-centennial Campaign, which has raised approximately \$3.4 million thus far. The Village is currently serving two significant Federal Grants in good standing, and has recently been awarded a Robert Wood Johnson replication grant.

6. Implementing efforts similar or related to the proposed Promise Neighborhood. In the case of a newly created eligible entity, the applicant must describe the prior performance of its management team in developing and managing projects or programs similar to the proposed Promise Neighborhood

Many of our school based programs such as Burr and Sand contain significant elements of programming that would be likely to be utilized in successful implementation of the Promise Neighborhood. Our school-based Family Resource Centers and early childhood programs have been instrumental in working with children and families to identify opportunities where early intervention would be appropriate and beneficial. Early identification and intervention has helped ensure service integration and access to needed services. While we have implemented and operated a broad variety of educational enrichment, case management, and behavioral health programs across in Hartford, our service to families and children is guided by our “wraparound” philosophy. Wraparound focuses on natural family engagement and utilizing traditional support systems as key elements in achieving the outcomes our clients need. As an agency, we know we can not do our work alone, hence we have deep experience in community and multi-agency collaborations. Recently we have been selected by DCF as a Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) “lead agency” for the Hartford region. In this role, we work with other TFC agencies across the state to ensure that TFC objectives and processes are achieving goals.

7. Having successfully in place one programmatic element of the cradle to college pipeline

As a broad human services agency in Hartford, the Village has developed and implemented a wide variety of programs along the spectrum of cradle to College for children, adolescents, and their families. In any given year, the Village serves over 6,000 Hartford children and Families. An excerpt of the programming that we would envision we will draw on in planning for the Promise Neighborhood are:

- Early Childhood Integrated Services
- Services for Young Parents, including Fatherhood programs
- School Based educational enrichment, 21st Century Learning Centers
- Community Schools, including Family Resource Centers
- Economic Security Programs and Family Financial literacy programming.
- Adolescent Family Life dealing with teen pregnancy and parenting,
- Extended Day Treatment programming and a variety of Behavioral Health services

8. Outlining governance structure of the organization as related to the Clay Arsenal neighborhood demographics and ability to be flexible in including partners in governance of the Promise Neighborhood

The Village primarily serves the Hartford area, with approximately 80% of our clients residing in Hartford, including the Clay Arsenal area. The Village is focused and proud of its motivated, culturally diverse team of professionals who reflect the population they serve (71% of staff are African-American or Latino/a, and 70% of staff live in Hartford or within a 10-mile radius). The Village also has deep experience in working with community based boards and advisory committees. In two successful programs, Friend of the Family and Rambuh house, still active advisory groups founded the programs, are active in volunteering, strategic planning, and program fund raising.

9. Demonstrating potential match capacity including the dedication of at least one highly qualified staff member to the Promise Neighborhood efforts

With an active and successful public grants and development areas, we have strong potential funding contacts in the greater Hartford region and beyond. Given the scope and high potential that the Promise Neighborhood initiative has on the children and families of Hartford, we would envision the dedication of a key Senior Director, Aldwin Allen to this project. Mr. Allen is a native of Hartford and resides with his family in the North end. Mr. Allen currently serves Community School Partnership as the provider representative. He is a highly skilled leader and communicator, well known and highly involved working with schools, other potential collaborators, and is a passionate advocate for the Promise Neighborhood movement.