

September 26, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to express our concern with the overall funding level of the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Education) appropriations bill and the lack of funding for the Promise Neighborhoods program and other important education programs in the legislation approved by the Subcommittee. We ask that when the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill is considered by the full committee, that the Promise Neighborhoods program is funded at the level provided for FY 2023, \$91 million, and that cuts made by the Subcommittee to other critical education programs are reversed.

Programs represented by the National Coalition for Promise Neighborhoods and many others across the country serving low-income communities effectively utilize funds provided through the Promise Neighborhoods and other critical education programs to continue building the infrastructure of support to create vibrant, economically strong communities with a focus on family. These programs create an environment for residents to be their own agents of sustainable educational and economic change. By supporting coordination of community, educational, and workforce services, these programs seek permanent transformation of their communities.

Funding of the Promise Neighborhoods program has led to key impacts. The program has been recognized by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) as ensuring impactful collaboration that aligns with leading practices on coordination of Federal resources. In a GAO report, Promise Neighborhood grantees noted that this collaboration yielded significant benefits such as deeper relationships with community partners and the ability to attract additional funding. Specifically, 44 of 46 grantees reported that their collaboration with service providers broke down silos within their communities. Promise Neighborhood grantees also noted that the program is unique in that it provides funds for organizations to build partnerships and facilitate collaboration.

Individually, Promise Neighborhoods boast impressive results. Data from grantees indicates that the program has led to establishing common outcomes, leveraging resources and tracking performance within communities. For example, the percentage of kindergarten-ready students in the Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood in California has increased from 77 percent to 100 percent, more than double the national average. Further, graduation rates at Mission Promise Neighborhood schools in San Francisco, California climbed to 86 percent, nearly a 20 percent increase since the schools became Promise Neighborhood programs. At Lockard Elementary in the Delta Health Alliance Promise Neighborhood in Mississippi, kindergarten readiness rates increased by 55 points between 2013 and 2017, rising from 99th best to 8th best in the state. Lastly, Partners for Rural Impact Perry Promise Neighborhood in Kentucky contributed to a college going rate of 74 percent, up from 63 percent.

Restoring funding to Promise Neighborhood programs means supporting evidence-based early childhood education programs that put children on a path to academic success, strengthening families while reducing their reliance on social welfare support, enabling parents to complete job training and financial literacy programs to boost family income and savings, increasing tax revenues for the States, fostering

community engagement and civic pride and helping students overcome the large-scale learning loss associated with Covid. Our programs are instrumental in breaking generational cycles of poverty and poor health that have trapped so many of America's families. The Promise Neighborhoods program makes this possible and its funding is worthy of your strong and vocal support.

While restoring funding for Promise Neighborhoods, we also ask that you reverse cuts made to other education programs that are critical to low-income neighborhoods, including Title I grants to local educational agencies, Child Care Access Means Parents in School, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Full-Service Community Schools. These programs play a crucial role in the cradle-to-college continuum within which Promise Neighborhoods work.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

National Coalition for Promise Neighborhoods

Delta Health Alliance (Mississippi)
Mission Economic Development Agency (San Francisco, CA)
Partners for Rural Impact (Kentucky)
SBCS (San Diego, CA)