



**Agenda Item No. 2  
June 2, 2010 Meeting**

**DATE:** May 21, 2010  
**TO:** Children and Families Commission of Orange County  
**FROM:** Michael M. Ruane, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Officer's Report

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The Executive Officer's Report for June 2, 2010, will include the following items.

**A. Promise Neighborhoods Grant Proposal (*Report and Action*)**

Since the May Commission Meeting, Commission staff and consultants have continued to work with Think Together, Santa Ana Unified School District and other community partners on the Promise Neighborhood federal education grant proposal. The Promise Neighborhood program is based upon the Harlem Children's Zone model, and includes services from birth through college. The Commission role is to plan and design the services from birth through early elementary grades as a foundation for continued educational success. Enclosed are summary, proposed outcomes and indicators, and proposed boundaries for the grant proposal.

The initial \$500,000 planning grant would require a 50% cash or in-kind match. It is recommended that the Commission provide no more than \$50,000 of the cash match along with up to \$50,000 in-kind. This is consistent with our matching fund policy and reflects our proportional share of the target population.

The planning effort has already led to an early opportunity to site a school based clinic in the area, which would address current needs. In addition, there are dental training facilities at a school in the study area that can also be utilized as part of an overall strategy to improve health services for children.

The Promise Neighborhood program will also be addressed as part of the Bridgespan presentation at today's meeting.

**B. State Budget and Legislative Update (*Report*)**

Staff will provide an update on any new developments impacting Proposition 10 funds or county commissions. There will be a supplemental transmittal if there are any new state budget or legislative proposals.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Promise Neighborhoods Summary
2. Promise Neighborhoods Draft Outcomes & Indicators
3. Promise Neighborhoods Draft Project Boundaries

**Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grants At-A-Glance**  
Office of Innovation and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education  
April 2010

The Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2010 provided funds for Promise Neighborhoods under the legislative authority of the Fund for the Improvement of Education Program (FIE). FIE supports nationally significant programs to improve the quality of elementary and secondary education at the State and local levels and help all children meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards.

- **Purpose.** The Promise Neighborhoods Program is intended to significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children in our most distressed communities, and to transform those communities. Because the challenges faced by communities with high concentrations of poverty are interrelated, Promise Neighborhoods is taking a comprehensive approach designed to ensure that children have access to a continuum of cradle-through-college-to-career solutions, with strong schools at the center, that will support academic achievement, healthy development, and college and career success.
- **Eligibility Requirements.** Entities eligible to receive Promise Neighborhoods planning grants include: (1) nonprofit organizations, which may include faith-based nonprofit organizations, and (2) institutions of higher education. An eligible entity must also:
  - Operate a school; or partner with at least one school in the geographic area proposed to be served in coordination with the school's local educational agency (LEA).
  - Focus on a neighborhood in which there are multiple signs of distress based on indicators of need.
  - Currently provide at least one of the solutions from the applicant's proposed continuum of cradle-through-college-to-career solutions in the neighborhood proposed to be served.
  - Be representative of the neighborhood proposed to be served.
  - If applying under Absolute Priority 3, be an eligible entity that partners with an Indian Tribe, or be an Indian Tribe that meets the definition of an eligible entity.
- **Cost-Sharing or Matching:** To be eligible for an award, an applicant must demonstrate that it has established a commitment from one or more entities in the public or private sector to provide matching funds or in-kind donations for the planning process. An applicant under Absolute Priority 1 must secure funds equal to at least 50 percent of its grant award. An applicant that meets the criteria for Absolute Priority 2 (Rural Communities) or Absolute Priority 3 (Tribal Communities) must obtain matching funds or in-kind donations equal to at least 25 percent of the grant award.
- **FY 2010 Planning Grants:** The Promise Neighborhoods program will award one-year grants to support the development of a plan to implement a Promise Neighborhood in which schools, academic programs, and family and community supports include the following core features:
  - a. The capacity to collect, analyze, and use data to evaluate their efforts.
  - b. Close integration so that time and resource gaps that contribute to children missing academic and developmental milestones do not occur.
  - c. A leader and an organization that can engage the community and are accountable for results.
  - d. A "place-based" approach, which leverages investments by focusing resources in targeted places.

At the conclusion of the planning grant period, grantees should have a feasible plan to implement a continuum of solutions that will significantly improve results for children in the community being served.

- **Funding Status:** The following table summarizes the funding status for the FY 2010 PN planning grants.

**Table 1: FY 2010 Promise Neighborhoods planning grants**

Estimated Funding Available	Up to \$10MM
Estimated Number of Grants	Up to 20
Estimated Range of Awards	\$400K - \$500K
Project Period	12 months

- **Implementation Grants:** In subsequent years, contingent on the availability of funds, the Department intends to conduct competitions for implementation grants, as well as competitions for new planning grants. While all eligible entities will be able to apply for implementation grants, eligible entities that have effectively carried out the planning activities described in the planning notice, whether independently or with a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant, are likely to be well positioned to develop a quality application for an implementation grant.
- **Absolute Priorities:**
  - **Absolute Priority 1.** All applicants must meet the requirements of Absolute Priority 1 to be considered for a Promise Neighborhoods planning grant. To meet this priority, an applicant must submit a proposal for how it will plan to create a Promise Neighborhood. This proposal must--
    1. Describe the geographically defined area to be served and the level of distress in that area;
    2. Describe how the applicant will plan to build a continuum of cradle-through-college-to-career solutions for children in the neighborhood;
    3. Describe the applicant's organizational capacity to plan and implement a Promise Neighborhood;
    4. Describe how the applicant will plan to sustain and "scale up" the project over time;
    5. Describe the commitment the applicant anticipates receiving from partners;
    6. Describe how the applicant will plan to track available funding sources;
    7. Describe how the applicant will identify policies or regulations that would impede the project;
    8. Describe how the applicant will use data;
    9. Describe how the applicant will work with a national evaluator for Promise Neighborhoods; and
    10. Identify and describe the indicators that the applicant will use for a needs assessment.
  - **Absolute Priority 2:** Promise Neighborhoods in rural communities. The Secretary establishes a priority for applicants that meet all requirements in absolute priority 1 AND serve one or more rural communities only.
  - **Absolute Priority 3:** Promise Neighborhoods in tribal communities. The Secretary establishes a priority for applicants that meet all requirements in absolute priority 1 AND serve one or more Indian tribes.
- **Invitational Priority:** Unique learning needs, quality internet connectivity, civic engagement, or arts and humanities. The Secretary is interested in receiving applications that meet this invitational priority, but an application that meets this priority will not receive preference over other applications.
- **Selection Criteria.** The following table lists the selection criteria for the Promise Neighborhoods planning grants and summarizes the points per selection criteria:

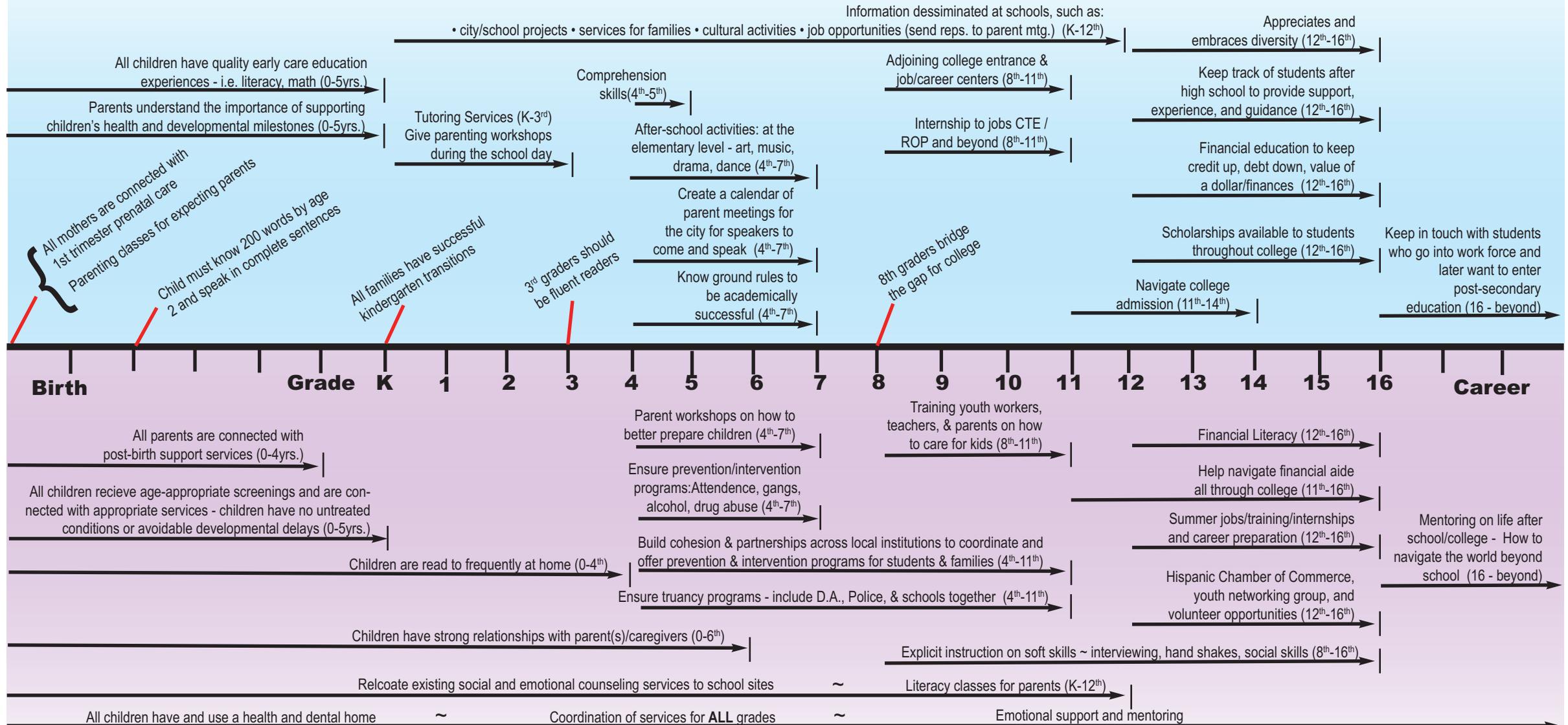
**Table 2: Summary of Selection Criteria Points for FY 2010 PN Planning Grants Competition**

Selection Criteria	Points
1. Need for Project	10
2. Quality of Project Design	20
3. Quality of Project Services	15
4. Quality of Project Personnel	25
5. Quality of Management Plan	20
6. Supplement	10
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

- **Timing.** We anticipate publishing the final notice in the Federal Register during the week of May 3, 2010. We will host several informational and application webinars in the coming weeks. Notices of intent to apply are due on May 21, 2010. Applications will be due on June 25th, 2010. Applications will be reviewed in Summer 2010. All grant awards will be announced in September 2010.
- **Additional inquiries should be submitted to [promiseneighborhoods@ed.gov](mailto:promiseneighborhoods@ed.gov).** We are not able to respond to each inquiry with an individual response, but we will review all questions submitted and post answers to the most frequently asked questions on our Web site, [www.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/index.html)

# OUTCOMES/INDICATORS

## School Support



## Community and Family Support

# Proposed Neighborhood

## Santa Ana Promise Neighborhood Initiative

