



Nuts and Bolts of Promise Neighborhoods FY 2026 Competition

U.S. Department of Education
in partnership with the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
May 18, 2026 * 2:00 p.m. ET



U.S. Department of Education

Objectives

During this presentation, attendees will learn about the following:

- Basics of the competition including funding, priorities, selection criteria, and application requirements; and
- Resources and upcoming opportunities to learn more about the Promise Neighborhoods program and the current grant competition.



Agenda

- Overview of Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Promise Neighborhoods Grant Competition
- Overview of Promise Neighborhoods
- Priorities
- Application Process
- Resources





Overview of Application Notice for Promise Neighborhoods

Assistance Listing Number: 84.215N

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Grant Competition

What is the Purpose of Promise Neighborhoods?



- The purpose of the Promise Neighborhoods (PN) program is to significantly improve the academic and developmental outcomes of children and youth living in the most distressed communities of the United States, including ensuring school readiness, high school graduation, and access to a community-based continuum of high-quality services.
- The PN program is authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). (Program Authority: [20 U.S.C. 7273–7274](#))



What is the Estimated Funding and Number of Awards?

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Estimated Available Funds | \$65,000,000 |
| Estimated Range of Awards | \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 (annually) |
| Estimated Number of Awards | 12 |
| Project Period | 60 months (5 years) |



FY 2026 Grant Competition Key Dates

May 8, 2026

June 22, 2026

August 6, 2026
11:59 p.m. ET

October 6, 2026

Published in
Grants.gov

Intent to Apply
Due

Application Due in
Grants.gov

Intergovernmental
Review Completed



Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Under section 4622 of the ESEA, eligible entities include:
 - Institutions of higher education (IHEs)
 - Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations
- One or more nonprofit organizations in formal partnership with at least one of the following:
 - A high-need local education agency (LEA)
 - An IHE
 - A chief elected official's office
 - An Indian Tribe or Tribal organization





Overview of Promise Neighborhoods

Westat (Technical Assistance Contract 91990023D0050)











Overview of Promise Neighborhoods (PN)

- Community organizations united behind a shared vision, implementing a cradle through career pipeline of wrap-around services with great schools at the center
- Originally inspired by the Harlem Children's Zone
- Progress measured through 10 results



Promise Neighborhood Results

10 results =
14 Government
Performance
and Results Act
(GPRA)
indicators

| Education | | | Family and Community Supports | | |
|-----------|--|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 |  | Kindergartners with age-appropriate functioning | 6 |  | Children who consume five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily |
| 2 |  | Students who are proficient in mathematics (2.1) and English language arts (2.2) | 7 |  | Students who feel safe at school and <u>traveling</u> to and from school |
| 3 |  | Average daily attendance (3.1) and chronic absenteeism (3.2) rates of students in grades 6–9 | 8 |  | Student mobility (entries and withdrawals from school) |
| 4 |  | High school graduation rate | 9 |  | Parents or family members who read to their children (9.1) or talk about the importance of college and career (9.2) |
| 5 |  | Students who enroll in a 2-year or 4-year college or university after graduation from high school (5.1) and students who graduate from college, university, or a vocational certificate program (5.2) | 10 |  | Students who have access to the internet at home and school |



Promise Neighborhoods Grantee Responsibilities

- Typically serves as backbone organization convening cross-sector partners (e.g., schools, families, residents, and both non- and for-profit groups)
- Administers the grant AND convenes the partners that support the cradle-to-career pipeline
- Completes Annual Performance Reports to document substantial progress in implementation



Promise Neighborhoods Provide Services, Improve Systems, and Leverage Resources

Provide Services

Cradle-to-Career Solutions

- > Identify local service providers
- > Utilize educational, family, and community supports
- > Span early childhood to career
- > Measure program- and population-level results

Improve Systems

Policy & Systems Influence

- > Breakdown local silos between community orgs
- > Collect and share data
- > Promote community decision-making
- > Build mutual, results-based accountability

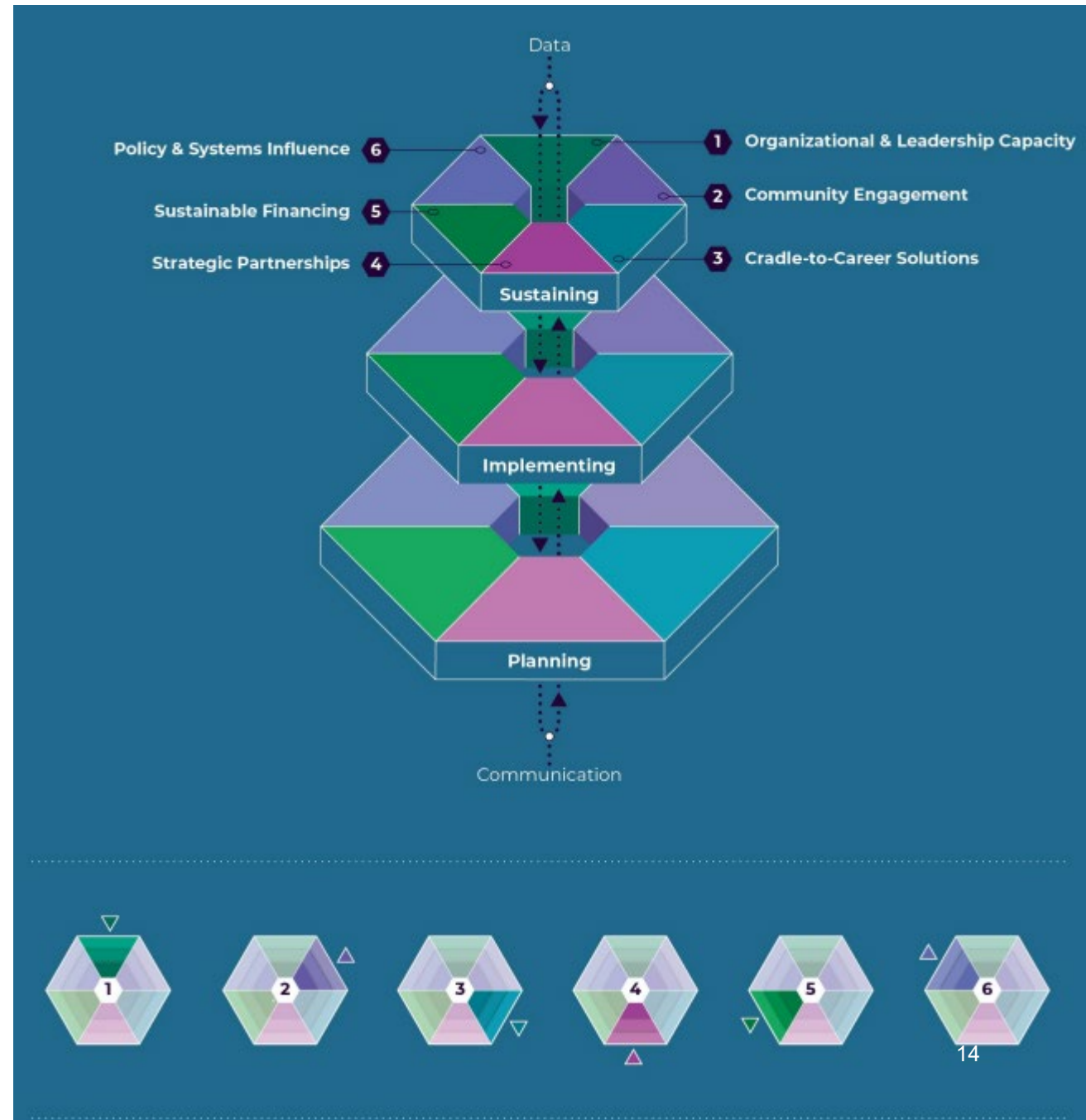
Leverage Resources

Sustainable Financing

- > Braid multiple funding sources
- > Develop relationships with private funders
- > Build coalitions across communities
- > Create or change state/local funding streams



Advancing Conditions for Achieving Promise Neighborhoods Results



Source: Nathanson, L., Gallagher, M., Scott, K., and Martin, V. (2025). Advancing Conditions for Achieving Promise Neighborhoods Results. Westat. U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved March 9, 2026, from promiseneighborhoods.ed.gov/pdf/Advancing_Conditions_for_Achieving_Promise_Neighborhoods_Results_2025.pdf.



Priorities

Absolute Priorities

Competitive Preference Priorities

Absolute Priorities Align with Eligibility

1. **Priority 1—Non-Rural and Non-Tribal Communities.** Applicant must propose to implement a PN strategy that serves one or more non-rural or non-Tribal communities.
2. **Priority 2—Rural Communities.** Applicant must demonstrate one or more of the following criteria associated with the Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program, the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) program, specific locale codes for partner LEAs, or rural campus setting for institution of higher education applicants. To determine whether a particular LEA is eligible for SRSA or RLIS, refer to [ED's website](#).
3. **Priority 3—Tribal Communities.** Applicant must propose to implement a PN strategy that serves one or more Indian Tribes.



Competitive Preference Priorities

The Secretary established the following priorities for use in any Department discretionary grant program:

1. Promoting Evidence-Based Literacy ([90 FR 43514](#))
2. Meaningful Learning Opportunities—High-Quality Interventions or Accelerated Learning Supports for Students and Supporting Families ([91 FR 6625](#))
3. Meaningful Learning Opportunities—Career Connected Learning ([91 FR 6625](#))



1. Evidence-Based Literacy



- Advance, increase, or expand evidence-based literacy instruction
- Focus on evidence-based literacy instruction

Learn more: Secretary's Supplemental Priorities and Definitions on Evidence-Based Literacy, Education Choice, and Returning Education to the States (2025 Supplemental Priorities), published in the *Federal Register* on September 9, 2025 ([90 FR 43514](#))



2. Meaningful Learning Opportunities— Supports for Students and Families



- Expand high-quality interventions or accelerated learning supports for students based on strong, moderate, or promising evidence
- Support families in providing meaningful at-home learning (e.g., providing resources, educational materials, and access to learning platforms to support student needs)

Learn more: Secretary's Supplemental Priority and Definitions on Meaningful Learning Opportunities (Meaningful Learning Opportunities Supplemental Priority), published in the *Federal Register* on February 12, 2026 ([91 FR 6625](#))



3. Meaningful Learning Opportunities— Career Connected Learning



- Provide career/academic advising and mentorship
- Integrate career-connected and work-based learning into K-12 education (connect core academic instruction with real-world career skills; foster career awareness, exploration, and preparation)
- Support vocational rehabilitation for students with disabilities (pre-employment transition services and transition services)

Learn more: Secretary's Supplemental Priority and Definitions on Meaningful Learning Opportunities (Meaningful Learning Opportunities Supplemental Priority), published in the *Federal Register* on February 12, 2026 ([91 FR 6625](#))



After Notice is Published...

May 8, 2026



Published in
Grants.gov

Read the opportunity ([Grants.gov/search-results-detail/362347](https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/362347)), including linked documents, selection criteria, and review process.

Look for “Applicant Info” on ED’s website:
[ED.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-birth-grade-12/school-and-community-improvement-grants/promise-neighborhoods-pn](https://ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-birth-grade-12/school-and-community-improvement-grants/promise-neighborhoods-pn)



Is Promise Neighborhoods grant right for your community?

- This is much more than a grant program – it can be a transformative experience if you're willing to do the work.
- Grantees have access to powerful learning opportunities:
 - Technical assistance
 - Leadership development
 - National network
- This is an incredible opportunity to build or strengthen community infrastructure, do business differently, and achieve better results for children and families!



Prepare the Application

- Applicants are required to follow the *2025 Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs* (published in the *Federal Register* on August 29, 2025; [90 FR 42234](#))
- Use the Application Checklist in the notice that lists standards documents and instructions for completing specific forms



Include New Evidence Form



U.S. Department of Education Evidence Form

OMB No.
1894-0001 Exp.
07/31/2025

1. Level of Evidence

Select the level of evidence of effectiveness for which you are applying. See the Notice Inviting Applications for the relevant definitions and requirements.

Demonstrates a Rationale Promising Evidence Moderate Evidence Strong Evidence

2. Citation and Relevance

Fill in the chart below with the appropriate information about the studies that support your application.

| A. Research/Citation | B. Relevant Outcome(s)/Relevant Finding(s) | C. Project Component(s)/Overlap of Populations and/or Settings |
|----------------------|--|--|
| | | |



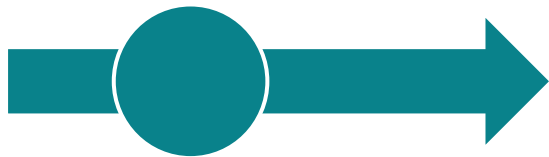
Use “Definitions” Section to Better Understand Levels of Evidence

- Definitions include references to *What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)*.
- Visit ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/ to find
 - Standards for and examples of programs with strong (Tier 1), moderate (Tier 2), and promising (Tier 3) evidence
 - Practice Guides
 - Intervention Reports
 - Reviews of Individual Studies
 - Data from Study Reviews



Email Your Intent to Apply

June 22, 2026



Intent to Apply
Due

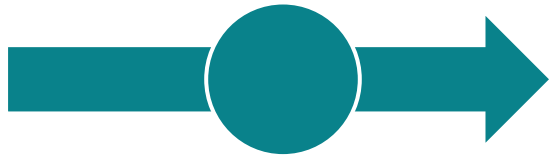
Email PromiseNeighborhoods@ed.gov with your intent to apply by June 22, 2026. Include the

- subject line “Intent to Apply,”
- name of the lead applicant,
- neighborhood(s) to be served, and
- names of key partners in the proposed project.



Register in Two Systems Before Application Deadline

August 6, 2026
11:59 p.m. ET



Application Due
in Grants.gov

To apply, you must first be registered in two systems: [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) and [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

ED strongly recommends that you do not wait until the last day to submit your application. Grants.gov will put a date/time stamp on your application and then process it after it is fully uploaded.



Application Review Information (1 of 2)

ED may consider—

- Criterion, priority, or other requirement that applies to the selection of applications for new grants;
- Applicant's performance and use of funds under a previous award under any ED program; and
- Applicant's failure under any ED program to submit a performance report or submission of a performance report of unacceptable quality.



Application Review Information (2 of 2)

Additional factors under section 2242 of the ESEA in selecting an application for an award include the following:

- Grants are distributed among eligible entities that will serve geographically diverse areas, including urban, suburban, and rural areas
- Only one grant under this program is awarded to an eligible entity during a grant competition





Resources

Resources

Grants.gov website posted the official notice and relevant forms

- [Grants.gov/search-results-detail/362347](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/362347)

Promise Neighborhoods websites have additional resources

- [ED.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-birth-grade-12/school-and-community-improvement-grants/promise-neighborhoods-pn](https://ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-birth-grade-12/school-and-community-improvement-grants/promise-neighborhoods-pn) (ED program website)
- [Promiseneighborhoods.ed.gov/](https://promiseneighborhoods.ed.gov/) (technical assistance website). Highlighted resources from technical assistance website
 - [Advancing Conditions for Achieving Promise Neighborhoods Results](#)
 - [Measuring Performance: A Guidance Document for Promise Neighborhoods on Collecting Data and Reporting Results \(3rd Edition\)](#)



FY 2026 Grant Competition Activities

| Date | Activity |
|--|---|
| Recorded presentations from May 18, 2026 | Nuts and Bolts of Promise Neighborhoods FY 2026 Competition and Promise Neighborhoods 101 |
| June 2026 TBD | Additional webinars such as: Building a PN Budget; Evidence and Evaluation in PN |
| June 22, 2026 | Intent to Apply Due |
| July 2026 TBD | Virtual Office Hours for Interested Applicants |
| August 6, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET | Application Due in Grants.gov |



Key Contacts

Key Contact: Rich Wilson

For questions, email PromiseNeighborhoods@ed.gov

