

ABSTRACT

Project Title: East L.A. Community Schools

Target Population: East Los Angeles, an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, has been the destination for waves of immigrants since the 1880s. Today it is the heart of the Mexican-American community. This vibrant, culturally rich neighborhood has a history of political and social advocacy. However, East L.A. also struggles with poverty, crime and gangs, underperforming schools, low educational attainment (half of adults lack a high school degree; 7% have a bachelor's), and trauma and stress related to neighborhood or family issues. The schools the project will serve enroll 6,249 students who are 98% Latino and 90% low-income. Over the grant period, the number of people served per year will grow from 6,000 to 9,400.

FSCS Schools: All schools are Title I. Esteban E. Torres High School includes five small high schools: East Los Angeles Performing Arts Magnet, East Los Angeles Renaissance Academy, Engineering & Technology Academy, Humanitas Academy of Art and Technology, and Social Justice Leadership Academy—all grades 9-12. Belvedere Middle School and Griffith Middle School enroll grades 6-8. Belvedere Elementary and Ford Blvd. Elementary enroll grades K-5. The schools form a feeder pattern that encompasses expanded transition kindergarten (age 4) through grade 12.

Comprehensive Plan: The project meets the absolute priority and addresses competitive preference priorities 2, 3 and 4. ELACS will create community schools at two elementary schools and two middle schools and will significantly enhance the community school at five small high schools that share a campus. Community schools in a feeder pattern will create a continuum of coordinated, integrated services that address the highest unmet needs in the school communities. Community-school coordinators at the campuses plus a family engagement coordinator and college & career coordinator will build systems, coordinate services and partners, assist schools in attracting resources to fill gaps in service, and build capacity in the schools to sustain services after the grant period. The project will be a model for the wider implementation of community schools in LAUSD, as well as bringing much-needed, integrated services to students, parents, schools and the community. Goals and outcomes: 1) Students in the target schools succeed academically (increase test scores, attendance, students prepared for kindergarten, middle and high school and postsecondary education and careers). 2) Children in the target schools are safe, healthy, and supported by engaged parents (increase family engagement and perceptions, decrease chronic absence and dropout rate). 3) Sustainable community schools improve coordination, integration and accessibility of services (increase the percent and number of unduplicated people served, develop sustainability plan).

Key Partner Entities: Los Angeles Education Partnership is the lead agency. Los Angeles Unified School district is the eligible LEA, including its Student Health and Human Services and Beyond the Bell divisions. Other key partners are LAUSD Local District East; California State University, Los Angeles; and Families in Schools. Additional partners have agreed to collaborate in delivering pipeline services, creating integrated systems and developing a sustainability plan. The key partners have a history of collaboration and share a commitment to East L.A. schools.