



# Promise Zones Bulletin

October 7, 2016

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## Welcome to the Promise Zone Bulletin

Welcome to the Promise Zones Bulletin, a collection of the news, press releases, and technical assistance opportunities specifically targeted toward Promise Zone lead organizations. We hope this bulletin provides readers with a snapshot of some of the activities occurring in the Promise Zones and can encourage connections and sharing of best practices. Feel free to share content from the Bulletin with your partners!

If you have stories, resources, announcements, or other content you would like to be featured in future bulletins or any suggestions, please email [pzteam@hud.gov](mailto:pzteam@hud.gov).

## HUD HQ Corner

### Feedback Request: Promise Zone Reporting Tools

The Promise Zone Reporting Tools Federal Register Notice announces the public comment period for the reporting collection materials that have been included in the designation agreements. Comments should refer to the proposal by name "Promise Zone Reporting Tools" and be submitted via email to:

[OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov). See the link below Notice for more details.

Promise Zone Communities and other stakeholders are encouraged to submit written comments by October 31, 2016. This is an opportunity to provide input on reporting tools before they are finalized.

### [Federal Register Notice](#)

[Access the draft reporting tools here](#)

### OMB Memo on Prioritizing Federal Investments in Promise Zones

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a memorandum on prioritizing federal investments in Promise Zones on September 2, 2016. HUD and USDA are working closely with OMB as they lay out the process for working with agencies on Promise Zone preference consideration and tracking. This

[memorandum](#):

- Provides further background on the Federal government's new approach, the Promise Zones initiative, and examples of how agencies currently use preference as a tool within Federal financial assistance;
- Directs agencies, in keeping with their authorities and where appropriate, to offer preference for Federal financial assistance and other resources on the basis of a Promise Zone designation; and
- Requires agencies to track Federal assistance that is provided to Promise Zone communities.

## **Potential Delay in List of Programs Offering Preference to Promise Zones in FY 2017 due to Continuing Resolution**

OMB's recent guidance Prioritizing Federal Investments in Promise Zones ([M-16-23](#)) asks agencies to finalize the list of FY17 grant and technical assistance programs that will offer preference for offered to that will be aligned with Promise Zones by October 31, 2016 or within 60 days of annual appropriations measures being enacted thereafter. Last Friday, President Obama signed into law H.R. 5325, the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 and Zika Response and Preparedness Act, 2016. H.R. 5325 is a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) that funds the Federal government through December 9, 2016, rather than an annual appropriations bill. This means the federal government is in a Continuing Resolution (CR) for the next several months. As a result, agencies lack certainty regarding which grant programs will be funded, and at what levels, beyond this 10-week period. We are working with OMB to determine whether finalization of the list of FY17 grant and technical assistance programs offering preference for Promise Zones will be delayed until a longer-term appropriation bill is passed. For now, the FY16 list is available on [www.hud.gov/promisezones](http://www.hud.gov/promisezones) <http://www.hud.gov/promisezones>.

## **Grants Awarded- Highlights**

### **Camden and St. Louis Choice Implementation Finalists**

[The Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant](#) from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department is an annual grant program that supports locally-driven strategies to help struggling neighborhoods. Thirty-four cities filed for the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant, and St. Louis and Camden were chosen as two of five finalists. Congratulations Camden and St. Louis!

In the coming weeks, HUD Choice Neighborhoods teams will visit the targeted housing and neighborhoods to meet with the applicants and partners to get a clear understanding of their individual Transformation Plans. The HUD teams will ensure the applicants are committed and capable of implementing the neighborhood transformation as described in their application.

### **YouthBuild Program Awards first SLATE-Z Federal Award with Preference Points**

To ensure that the nation's most disadvantaged communities have access to funding – for the first time in the program's history – priority consideration was given to organizations serving localities designated as Promise Zones. The Department of Labor awarded grants to eight organizations specifically targeting seven Promise Zones: Camden, New Jersey; El Paso and San Antonio, Texas; Hartford, Connecticut; two communities within Los Angeles; San Diego; and St. Paul, Minnesota. [SLATE-Z](#) let us know they were awarded its first federal grant with Promise Zone preference points: CRCD received \$1.1M over 3 years for their YouthBuild program. This will expand job training and educational opportunities for disconnected youth ages 16-24 in SLATE-Z. Congrats to all of these Promise Zones!

Have a grant, federal or non-federal, that you'd like to highlight? Please share with your Community Liaison/Desk Officer any grants awarded to your Promise Zone to feature in our next Bulletin!

## Promise Zone Spotlight

### Camden-Philly Academic Convening

*Photo: From left - North Hartford Promise Zone Community Liaison Marc Boucher; Desk Officer Brooke Bohnet; West Philadelphia Promise Zone Community Liaison Patrice Green; Camden Promise Zone Community Liaison Barbara Anne Gardenhire-Mills; Desk Officer Takiyah Worthy; Los Angeles Promise Zone Community Liaison Erich Yost and St. Louis Promise Zone Community Liaison Elvis Stephens.*



HUD, the Department of Education, and [Jobs for the Future](#), a national nonprofit that works to ensure educational and economic opportunity for all, hosted a Peer Learning Exchange for Promise Zones and Performance Partnership Pilot communities

with local partners in Camden, NJ, and Philadelphia, PA. Seventeen Promise Zones and six Performance Partnership Pilots (P3) sent staff from their local communities, who are involved in work that focuses on family literacy and youth workforce development. Big thank you to the Camden and Philadelphia Promise Zones for hosting this convening!

The first half of the training, hosted by the Philadelphia Regional office, focused on youth workforce development. PowerCorps, which engages disconnected young adults, ages 18 to 26, in transforming their lives through service was featured in the workshop. Corps members participate in six months of AmeriCorps service that provides them the opportunity to develop the skills required to become environmental stewards, secure meaningful work, and become civically engaged members of society. Attendees were able to hear from the developers of the program, the employers who partner with the program, and the members themselves.

The second half the training, hosted by the City of Camden, focused on family literacy. The training was led by Senior Director Dr. Joshua Cramer and Associate Director Tracy Noles from the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) and discussed the organization's mission to address our nation's literacy challenges. NCFL tackles these challenges by engaging all family members in learning, with a primary focus on parents and children living in poverty. Attendees presented the challenges and successes of family literacy in their own communities and learned about best practices from other communities as well.

Resources from the Convening:

- Presentations from Kisha Bird and the National Center for Families Learning:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2spdbupmtkyqgew/AAD0wVOXsvSYbWHMfBwtIWMPa?dl=0>

## Data & Evaluation Corner

### Promise Zone Academic and Research Convening

On September 23, the White House held a Workshop to foster partnerships between Promise Zones and universities and researchers through research, community engagement, and anchor institution support. As many of your Promise Zones have found, collaboration with academic institutions can advance Promise Zone goals by adding research and community engagement capacity, expertise, and broader anchor institution support in Promise Zone communities. This event included representatives of academic institutions within Promise Zones, Promise Zone community leaders, and individual researchers focused on place making or community development.

This convening aimed to:

- Connect universities with Promise Zone communities to support their efforts, or incorporate research on, in, and with Promise Zones into their portfolio of research and local engagement;
- Showcase existing successful PZ-university collaborations;
- Lay the foundation for a future forum for coordination between Promise Zone leadership and universities, multi-PZ and multi-university research efforts.

HUD is working with OMB and USDA on follow up engagement with this network, sharing notes and materials from the convening. Your Community Liaison can share the list of participants. More to come soon!

### Research Partnerships

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) has authority to enter into unsolicited research partnerships with universities, philanthropic organizations, other federal or state agencies, or a combination of these entities through noncompetitive cooperative agreements. The purpose of these partnerships is to allow PD&R to participate in innovative research projects that inform HUD's policies and programs. Research partnerships require that at least 50 percent of the costs are funded by the partnering agency. PD&R is focusing its cooperative agreement efforts on research partnerships that will advance one of the following five key areas:

- Strengthening Housing Markets: Homeownership and Housing Finance
- Affordable Quality Rental Housing
- Housing as a Platform for Improving Quality of Life
- Resilient and Inclusive Communities
- HUD Research Assets

*For more information on Research Partnerships, visit:*

[https://www.huduser.gov/portal/oup/research\\_partnerships.html](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/oup/research_partnerships.html)

## PZ Technical Assistance Opportunities

## 21st Century Cities Initiative's Playbook on Federal-Local Partnerships

The *Playbook* gives a blueprint of the administration's approach to federal-local partnerships. It provides a very hands-on guide for federal teams working with communities. Federal and community partners are invited to help develop the *Playbook*. It will live online through an interactive forum. You can [click here](#) to check out the *Playbook*, then make real-time updates and comments, adding case studies and lessons learned from your own experience creating meaningful federal-local partnerships. To do so, highlight the text you'd like to comment on to make a note, or leave comments in the discussion section.

Here are some resources from the convening:

- [Full video footage](#) from Day 1 and keynote/panel speakers from Day 2. If you view the videos from the YouTube site you can access time codes to skip to specific sessions.
- [Presentations](#) from Day 2.
- [Symposium White Papers](#) – full versions and summaries.

In the coming days, JHU will post additional items to the site, including:

- 60-second video summaries of each discussion session.
- Summary notes from the Day 2 round tables.
- Symposium policy briefs.

## Upcoming Call: Transformative Role of Arts and Culture in Promise Zones

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) invites you to join us for a webinar on Oct. 20 from 3-4:00pm EST to bring together NEA, State Arts Agencies and the Promise Zone Communities. The goal of this call will be:

- Provide a high level update about 22 Promise Zone Communities
- Introduce Promise Zone Community Liaisons and State Arts Agency Leaders
- Showcase current arts and cultural collaborations underway in Promise Zones
- Identify new potential collaborations and funding opportunities for arts and cultural efforts that advance the goals of the Promise Zones

*Recordings of webinars will be made available on [www.max.gov](http://www.max.gov). Ask your CL if you'd like to access past webinars. If you have not received email invitations to join these webinars and would like to, please send an email to [PZTeam@hud.gov](mailto:PZTeam@hud.gov).*

## National White House IMCP Summit

[REGISTER NOW](#) for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) Summit hosted by the White House and the Economic Development Administration on October 20, 2016 in Washington, D.C. The conference is FREE and open to the public.

This year's Summit will focus on sharing best practices; continuing the dialogue on current manufacturing issues; and providing an environment that fosters collaboration, creativity, and relationship building to advance the U.S. manufacturing sector.

Building on the last two Summits' focus on sharing best practices and reinforcing the importance of regional collaboration, the 2016 Summit will have a heightened focus on increasing participation from all U.S. manufacturing communities and stakeholders.

To register, visit <https://imcpsummit.wufoo.com/forms/mp4dles0xl3u8s/>. Registration closes at 11:59 p.m. PST on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Opportunity Youth Network 2016 Annual Summit

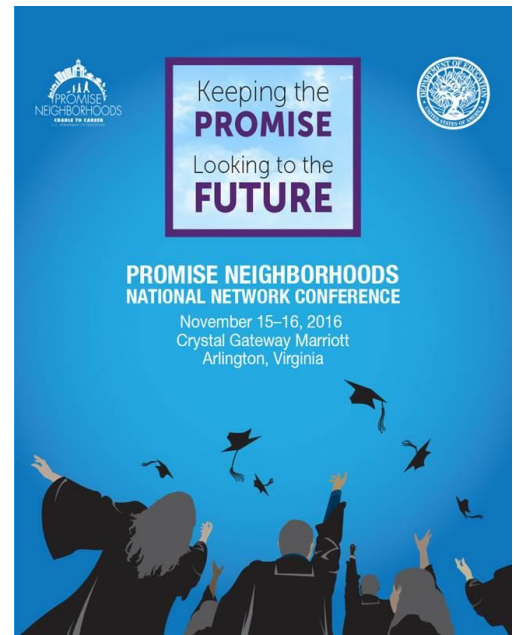
Join the [Opportunity Youth Network](#) for their fourth annual summit, as they bring together the country's leading funders, corporations, federal government officials, non-profits and young leaders to share innovative solutions in reconnecting opportunity youth and to collaborate in meaningful ways. The summit will provide key stakeholders across sectors with a forum to learn about the latest updates in the field, align on opportunities to collaborate and set priorities for the next year. The two-day event will kick off Opportunity Week, a week of related convenings in Washington, D.C.

- October 17-18
- Almas Center, 1315 K St. NW, Washington, DC

## Promise Neighborhood Project Directors Meeting

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Education, Promise Neighborhoods and the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), ED's Place Based Initiatives Pilot is pleased to announce that [registration](#) for the **2016 Promise Neighborhoods National Network Conference** is now open!

The 2016 Promise Neighborhoods National Network Conference – Keeping the Promise, Looking to the Future – will be held in the Washington, DC, area, **November 15 – 16, 2016**. The audience will include Promise Neighborhoods grantees, past and present, Full Service Community Schools grantees, Promise Zones, and other communities engaged in place-based efforts. This would be a great opportunity to expose key staff or principal partners to the broader network of peers who are working on cradle-to-career issues.



In addition to registering, please be sure to check the “Logistics” tab on the [registration site](#) for basic information, such as how to book your hotel and the start and end times for the meeting. **Please note that registration closes Monday, October 24 at 6pm ET.**

The Department of Education recognizes that funding for Promise Zone communities' travel is very limited, and that opportunities to connect with peers are incredibly important. As such, we are making available a limited number of scholarships that can be used to support travel costs (airfare, mileage, lodging, per diem); these scholarships are limited to **one person** per community. If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact Lucretia Murphy ([lmurphy@jff.org](mailto:lmurphy@jff.org)).

We are extremely excited to reconvene the extended Promise Neighborhoods and Promise Zones communities, and look forward to seeing you in November!

## Tools for Place-Based Initiatives

As part of its place-based initiatives efforts, Jobs for the Future has assembled four tools to guide innovation and improvement in place based work. Developed on behalf of the Department of Education to support its place-based initiatives (PBI) in more than 40 communities across the country,

including Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) sites, these resource guides cover a range of topics designed to strengthen and improve community-based efforts.

Five resource guides have already been developed to address the diverse needs of PBI and P3 sites. Current guides address: two-generation approaches, youth workforce development, early learning, opportunity youth, and FAFSA completion. Forthcoming resources will include a brief on family and school partnerships. To access these guides, go to Jobs for the Future's place-based initiative page [found here](#).

### **2016 Collective Impact Policy Summit - Greatest Hits**

This past July, the Forum for Youth Investment hosted the 2016 Collective Impact Policy Summit, a collaboration between multiple national organizations, bringing together federal, state, and local leaders to share their work across levels and siloes of government. Participants continue to be grateful for the chance to learn from their peers about how to go further in their work to improve outcomes for children, youth and families by working smarter and working together.

This memorandum builds on the 2015 Summit and provides a summary of the dialogue that took place. It includes key themes that arose from the summit, examples of innovative strategies happening around the country, and a list of resources and tools that participants and other policymakers could find useful for their own work. The 2016 Summit summary is available online [here](#).

## **Grant Opportunities**

The Promise Zones Grant Opportunities for FY16 is posted on [www.hud.gov/promisezones](http://www.hud.gov/promisezones). These grant applications have deadlines that are soon approaching so please reach out to your Community Liaison as soon as possible if your Promise Zone is interested in applying:

- [\*Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education: Performance Partnership Pilots \(P3\)\*](#), U.S. Department of Education (Due Oct. 31)
- [\*Assets for Independence Demonstration Program\*](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Due Oct. 31)

Questions? Comments? Email [pzteam@hud.gov](mailto:pzteam@hud.gov)