

Promise Neighborhood 2012 Planning Grant Application—



Savannah Promise Neighborhood

Project Abstract

In Savannah, Georgia there are neighborhoods where over 50% of the residents live in poverty, many have no medical home or insurance, and there are low-performing public schools. The Savannah Promise Neighborhood (SPN) is comprised of 7 inner-city census tracts. For the planning grant we will focus on two census tracts as Phase 1 which consist of 148 city blocks and 5 neighborhoods with a total population of 3,885, with 46% between ages 0-24 and the median household income is \$19,893.

There is one elementary, one K-8, and one middle school in the Phase 1 area, with the target school being East Broad Street K-8 School (EBSS) which has not made Adequate Yearly Progress for the last two school years. In 2010-11 it had 709 students, 94% of them received free or reduced cost lunch and 16% missed 15 or more days of school. Only 63.7% of them met basic standards in Language Arts/Reading and 57.4% met standards in Math.

To develop the SPN plan, researchers from Savannah State University will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment using focus groups and a survey of the Phase 1 residents to provide baseline data and identify needs; a segmentation analysis will identify most in need children and families. Data will be channeled to the Advisory Council which will help determine best practice solutions to impact each stage of the continuum. The chief academic officer at EBSS and other school staff will have pivotal roles in the planning process and participate on the Council and share academic and discipline data.

The Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority (YFA) has over 22 years experience working to improve the conditions of children and youth in Chatham County. YFA's Board is composed of representatives of health and social services, county and city government, neighborhood residents, local businesses, and the faith community. YFA's current activities already involve promoting collaboration across these institutions and using data to measure results.