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BALTIMORE RECEIVES NEARLY \$300,000 THROUGH GRANT PROGRAM BY NATIONAL NONPROFIT STRIVETOGETHER TO IMPROVE RESULTS AT MAJOR MILESTONES FOR KIDS

Baltimore's Promise leads one of 21 cradle-to-career partnerships that will advance equity and spread bold strategies to help children and families access opportunity and move up the economic ladder

BALTIMORE, MD — Baltimore's Promise, a citywide collaborative that works to improve outcomes for young people in Baltimore City, has received two grants totaling nearly \$300,000 from StriveTogether, a national nonprofit working to bring communities together around data to make decisions and improve results for kids. Baltimore's Promise and its partners will use these grant awards to improve post-secondary employment outcomes for young people and to support the implementation of an integrated data system for Baltimore City.

The grant awards are part of StriveTogether's Cradle to Career Community Challenge, which seeks to create local change to enable economic mobility. The program's goal is to strengthen and align the many systems, such as education, employment, health and housing, that shape opportunity for children and families in America.

"This funding is an amazing opportunity for Baltimore," said Baltimore's Promise Executive Director Julia Baez. "Our entire city will benefit if we can improve access to opportunities for our young people. We are so thankful that StriveTogether recognizes the importance of having stronger pathways for young people after they graduate high school and having access to good data that will help us address the needs of children and youth throughout the city."

In partnership with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Baltimore City Public Schools, Urban Alliance and Elev8 Baltimore, Baltimore's Promise will use the Accelerator Fund grant to support its work improving post-secondary employment outcomes for Baltimore's youth. [An analysis of post-secondary outcomes](#), which looked at what happened to 4,280 high

school graduates from the class of 2009, showed that after 6 years, more than a quarter had not enrolled in college nor entered the workforce. These findings helped inform [Grads2Careers](#), a partnership that works to connect Baltimore City's recent high school graduates to free job training, industry credentials and a meaningful career path in high demand industries such as health care and logistics.

With this new funding from StriveTogether, Baltimore's Promise and its partners will continue working to reduce the unemployment rate and number of opportunity youth (young people not enrolled in school or engaged in the workforce) in Baltimore City by building links between the education and workforce systems, helping workforce training providers better support young adults and connecting high school graduates with opportunities in skills training.

The second grant, from the Promising Practices Fund, will support Baltimore's integrated data system (IDS). Often city residents interact with multiple agencies or organizations, but information is not shared across sectors, meaning service providers do not have a full picture of the needs of the people they aim to serve. While protecting the privacy and personal data of individuals, an IDS helps city agencies and their partners share data responsibly, examine trends and better understand the complex needs of children and families in Baltimore City.

Baltimore's Promise is working with the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Health Department and Baltimore City Public Schools to build an IDS in order to address gaps in health, education and wealth outcomes throughout the city. With support from StriveTogether, Baltimore's Promise will work with its partners to improve collaboration between agencies by developing the capacity to link and share data about the needs of children, youth and families in Baltimore. The IDS partners will focus on inequities in services and outcomes so programs can respond more quickly to needs with the appropriate resources.

Through the Community Challenge, up to \$7 million over the next three years will fund projects across the country that advance equity and spread bold strategies to help students progress from kindergarten to post-secondary completion and a job.

During this round of grants, the Community Challenge program consists of two funds:

- The **Accelerator Fund** will advance equity and systems change in communities that are close to achieving proof point, an important measure of progress along StriveTogether's framework for cradle-to-career work. The 10 selected communities were each awarded a maximum total grant award of \$550,000 over three years to reach proof point. This initiative also combines an intensive leadership development program with targeted training and technical assistance.
- The **Promising Practices Fund** is intended to find local projects applying bold strategies that can be spread across StriveTogether's national network. These projects will focus on deeper community engagement and align education with other sectors such as health, housing and transportation. Eleven community-based organizations were awarded grants of up to \$150,000 for one year.

Communities in the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network were eligible to apply for the Community Challenge.

“StriveTogether launched the Cradle to Career Community Challenge because we refuse to settle for a world in which a child’s ability to thrive is dictated by factors like race or income,” StriveTogether President and CEO Jennifer Blatz said. “From partners across the country, we know the urgency of this work and the value of creating lasting change in communities. We are proud to start this year supporting 21 cradle-to-career partnerships to get real results for youth and families.”

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About Baltimore’s Promise

[Baltimore’s Promise](#) is a collective impact nonprofit that works with partners across the city to support young people from cradle to career. The mission of Baltimore’s Promise is to coordinate strategy, identify quality programs, support alignment activities, establish shared measures for meaningful results, build public will, and advance policy on behalf of Baltimore City’s youth.

About StriveTogether

[StriveTogether](#) is a national movement with a clear purpose: help every child succeed in school and in life from cradle to career, regardless of race, zip code or circumstance. In partnership with nearly 70 communities across the country, StriveTogether provides resources, best practices and processes to give every child every chance for success. The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches 10.5 million students, involves 10,800 organizations and has partners in 30 states and Washington, D.C.