

Delta Health Alliance, Inc. (DHA)

A coalition of stakeholders in Leflore County, Mississippi will establish a seamless continuum of evidence-based, coordinated programs to create a cradle-to-career pipeline geared toward improving the lives of low-income children living in the heart of the economically depressed Mississippi Delta. Nearly three-fourths of Leflore County residents (73%) identify as Black and one-third of families (32%) are living in poverty. The Leflore Promise Community (LPC) vision is to improve school readiness, academic achievement and career/college preparation for students of our low-performing Greenwood Leflore Consolidated School District (GLCSD) while building the power of parents, investing in local economies and connecting families to essential health and social supports. The LPC builds upon lessons learned from two existing rural Promise Neighborhoods in Mississippi, where Kindergarten readiness rates have more than doubled over a five-year period. We will utilize the School Transformation Model and continuous quality improvement to integrate a pipeline of 24 new evidence-based school, family and community programs. Families will be recruited at multiple points of the pipeline, focusing on children ages 0-5. Locally recruited case managers will steward our family navigation system and students will be prepared for college and/or career training with an emphasis on post-secondary completion, career development and spurring of economic growth.

The LPC collaborative is expected to yield statistically significant improvements in: (1) children entering kindergarten ready to succeed in school; (2) students achieving proficiency in core academic subjects; (3) students successfully transitioning from middle school to high school; (4) youth graduating from high school on time; (5) high school graduates obtaining a postsecondary degree, workforce certification or credential; (6) students thriving in optimum health; (7) students feeling safe; (8) students living in stable communities; (9) families supporting learning; and (10) families accessing 21st century learning tools including support during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. DHA's capacity to achieve these results is demonstrated by our: (a) experience managing large-scale, community-based initiatives; (b) use of evidence-based models; (c) robust data analysis and reporting infrastructure, including case management; and (d) ability to leverage a wide variety of partner resources and expertise.

The project will serve 4,000 individuals per year will receive one or more services. All GLCSD public schools, 13 sites, are included in the proposal (Claudine Brown Elementary, East Elementary, Leflore County Elementary, Bankston Elementary, Davis Elementary, Threadgill Elementary, Threadgill Primary, Amanda Elzy Junior High and High Schools, Leflore County High, Greenwood Middle, Greenwood High, and the GLCSD Career & Technical Educational Center).