



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AWARDS LOS ANGELES \$30 MILLION PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT

YPI awarded President Obama's signature initiative.

Los Angeles, Ca. (December 21, 2012) – The Youth Policy Institute (YPI) – a non-profit organization that provides education, training and technology services to end generational poverty at 125 program sites in Los Angeles – was one of only five agencies in the nation to be awarded President Obama's prestigious Promise Neighborhood grant today by the U.S. Department of Education for \$30 million over five years. YPI is the lead agency for the Los Angeles Promise Neighborhood collaborative including more than 50 other community-based organizations in the target communities of Pacoima and Hollywood. Promise Neighborhoods is President Obama's signature education and poverty eradication initiative, creating a cradle-to-career pipeline for students and families.

The grant will be announced at a press conference on Friday, December 21, 2012, at 12:00 p.m. at YPI's Hollywood FamilySource Center located at 1075 North Western Ave., L.A. (corner of Santa Monica and Western). Guests include L.A. City Councilman Eric Garcetti, LAUSD Superintendent Dr. John Deasy, LAUSD Board Member Steve Zimmer and more.

"This is a day full of hope for Los Angeles and the communities that YPI serves," said Dixon Slingerland, Executive Director of YPI. "The Promise Neighborhood program aligns with YPI's vision to deliver holistic quality resources that prepare every child for a successful college and career path," he added.

With more than 1,000 staff, YPI has positioned itself as a leading nonprofit authority with an expansive network of regional partners who have committed more than \$100 million in matching funds over the next five years for the Promise Neighborhood, plus \$499 million in committed leverage funds from the City and County of Los Angeles.

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"This significant federal grant award to the Los Angeles Promise Neighborhood and the Youth Policy Institute clearly demonstrates the power of partnerships in Los Angeles," Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said. "It is a winning combination when the City, the nonprofit community, and philanthropy work closely together. This \$30 million award recognizes that L.A. is a model of collaboration and cooperation and we are proud to have stepped up to the plate to support this beneficial project for Angeleno youth."

YPI's Promise Neighborhood Implementation grant will benefit 16 Los Angeles Unified School District and charter schools. Specific projects include the addition of full-time academic coaches and service coordinators at every site. Existing YPI programs like Full-Service Community Schools and afterschool programs will increase the number of schools and pupils served.

Hollywood target schools include: Ramona Elementary School, Grant Elementary School, Santa Monica Charter Elementary School, Le Conte Middle School, Bernstein Complex and APEX Academy Charter. Pacoima target schools include: Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, Pacoima Charter Elementary School, Broadous Elementary School, San Fernando Institute for Applied Media, Maclay Middle School, Sylmar Academy, San Fernando High School and Cesar Chavez Learning Academies.

YPI received the award of a federal Promise Neighborhoods planning grant in 2010, which enabled the organization to complete a comprehensive needs assessment of Hollywood and Pacoima. The assessment informed the program design for YPI's successful implementation application.

"This is a vital opportunity to strengthen and accelerate our work," said YPI Chief Operating Officer Iris Zuniga. "We now have the opportunity to transform the communities of Pacoima and Hollywood with high quality schools at their center."

For more information about YPI and the Promise Neighborhood grant, or to interview a YPI spokesperson, please contact Evelyn Aleman by calling 818.943.2481 or via e-mail at evelyn@mipr.net. Visit YPI on the web at www.ypiusa.org.

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About YPI

The Youth Policy Institute (YPI) is a non-profit organization developed from the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Fund in 1983 to provide education, training and technology services that lift families out of poverty. Since 2001, YPI has served families in the City of Los Angeles through 125 program sites that offer place-based education and training services via afterschool programs, charter and pilot schools, job training, summer jobs for youth, physical education, adult education, computer literacy, case management, parenting, tutoring, and college preparation. Each year, YPI programs serve more than 70,000 youth and adults in Los Angeles. For more information, please visit www.ypiusa.com.