



ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST

LOUISVILLE

Community Snapshot

Louisville is Kentucky's largest city and benefits from a vibrant arts and cultural scene with opera, ballet, orchestra and repertoire and children's theater as well as expansive parks, vibrant neighborhoods and a hometown feel. Louisville became one of the nation's "Top 20" cities after a city-county merger in 2003. In preparation for the merger, the Brookings Institution helped the city identify what the city needed to move into the top tier of American cities. Brookings identified developing a better educated, more highly skilled workforce as a necessity and thus, education is the top agenda item for future economic development.

Community Solutions Action Plan

Louisville recognizes that some shifts in policy and programming are necessary if the city is to accomplish its goals and as a result advocates the following:

- School readiness: Outreach to parents and providers about importance of reading, improve quality of preschool programs and provide opportunities for families and children to learn
- Chronic absence: Use the SMART ED early warning system to identify students on track for chronic absenteeism and create trainings for childcare and afterschool providers on importance of attendance
- Summer learning: Every1Reads provides hundreds of literacy volunteers for summer programs, Kindergarten Countdown provides information, t-shirts, free books and summer events to incoming kindergartners and supplementing out-of-school time programming with educational opportunities for targeted students struggling in reading and math through new Endorsed Learning Centers
- Parent and community engagement: Every1Knows website provides literacy information to parents and others, developing a public awareness campaign and , training intake staff at human service organizations

Partnerships

The plan to ensure that all Louisville children are reading at grade level was a group team effort led by Metro United Way, Office of Youth Development, Neighborhood Place and Americorps with help from the Jewish Community Center, Kindergarten Countdown, Governor's Office of Early Childhood, Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance, 15th District PTA, MUW Community Impact Cabinet, Louisville OST Coordinating Council and the Wallace Foundation.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 741,096 residents
- 100,000 students
- 27 percent of children age 0-5 live in poverty
- 68 percent of third graders are proficient readers (state test)
- 75 percent graduation rate
- Fewer than half of kindergartners are prepared
- 4 percent of students are chronically absent

GOALS (BY 2020)

- Have 100 percent of third graders reading at grade level
- Reduce chronic absenteeism to 10 percent
- Increase school preparedness to 80 percent
- Set a baseline for summer programs and increase it by 25 percent

"Louisville values and invests in its young people."