

LISC Philadelphia, Drexel University and West Philadelphia Promise Zone Residents Partner to Encourage Youth Engagement and Development

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Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and Drexel University's **West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhoods (WPPN)** have teamed up on a new initiative to award \$30,000 in funding for projects that improve the academic, health and economic outcomes for kids and their families. They are part of the broader initiative spearheaded by Drexel University that supports children living or attending school in the West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood.

The Promise Neighborhood is the education strategy for the Promise Zone. The Promise Neighborhood covers two miles in West Philadelphia and includes the neighborhoods of Belmont, Mantua, Mill Creek, Powelton Village, West Powelton, Saunders Park and East Parkside. The collaborative efforts from residents, LISC and Drexel will invest money and planning support for programs that improve students' safety, health, reading skills and career preparation. The goal is to recognize community-based organizations with great ideas for supporting students and their families like yoga, college tours and lessons in gardening and tree planting.

Eight projects were awarded funds at seven organizations during the first round, including: Holly Street Neighbors CDC/Community Leaders Collaborative, Mantua Civic Association, Second Antioch Baptist Church, Mighty Writers, West Belmont Civic Association, PC Radio Live and the Alain Locke School. Applications were reviewed and funding decisions made by a committee composed of community residents.

"As part of our ongoing commitment to advancing resident-led solutions in West Philly, LISC is proud to partner with Drexel in facilitating these awards," says **Andrew Frishkoff**, Executive Director for LISC Philadelphia. "It's good to be reminded of the strength and spirit of our neighbors, particularly in these challenging times."

About West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood (WPPN) ... In December 2016, Drexel University was awarded a \$30 million grant from the US Department of Education to support "cradle-to-career" education strategies in the West Philadelphia Promise Zone, an initiative meant to improve the academic, health and economic outcomes of children and their families.

The West Philadelphia Promise Zone is a partnership of the City of Philadelphia, School District of Philadelphia, People's Emergency Center, LISC, Mt. Vernon Manor and more than 50 other organizations and service providers

About Local Initiatives Support Corp (LISC) Philly ... In collaboration with local residents and partners, LISC Philly is a chapter of the nationwide LISC network that forges resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America: great places to live, work, visit, do business and raise families.

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