

San Antonio Eastside Promise Zone

City of San Antonio Texas

Population Size:

64,293

Lead Organization:

City of San Antonio (CoSA)

Implementation

Partners:

PaCT Coordinating Council

Members: Mayor of San Antonio • City Manager • Council District 2 • San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) • San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE) • United Way • Trinity University • San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) • City Public Service • Local Businesses

PaCT Implementation Team:

SAHA • McCormack Baron Salazar • Urban Strategies • Promise/United Way • SAGE • EastPoint • City Center Development • Economic Development Department • SAISD • San Antonio Police Dept. • Animal Care Services

PaCT Task Forces:

Representatives from various CoSA departments, partner agencies, and utility agencies

Other Partners:

SA2020 • Judson Independent School District • St. Philip's College • Accion Texas • Private sector business, employers, and investors

San Antonio Eastside Promise Zone Mission

The mission of the Eastside Promise Zone is to reduce poverty and improve overall quality of life on the Eastside of San Antonio. Goals include: increase economic activity job creation & training, improve education, leverage private investment, reduce serious and violent crime, reduce poverty and increase affordable housing.

About the Eastside

The Eastside of San Antonio is a diverse, bilingual community with some of the city's oldest neighborhoods. The area was once a thriving community and the heart of the city's African-American Community. However, for years, citizens have voiced concerns about a lack of investment on the Eastside, resulting in high levels of poverty, unemployment, underperforming schools, and crime. The zone consists of nineteen contiguous census tracts, 20 square miles, encompassing 18,864 families. The area has a 35.2% poverty rate and an unemployment rate of over 11%.

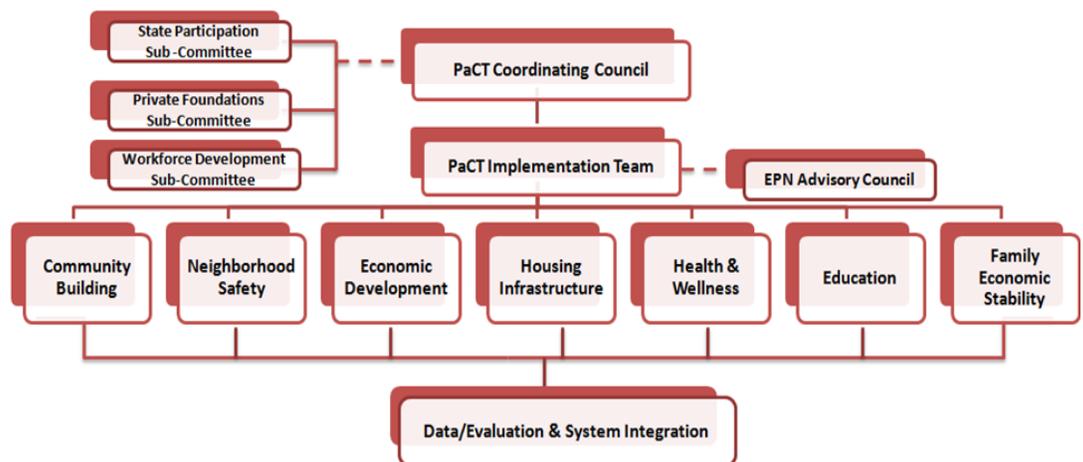
Promise Zone Leadership

The City of San Antonio and the partners established a three-tier governance structure to implement the Promise Zone designation and coordinate the federal grants in the targeted area, EastPoint. Below is a breakdown and visual of the structure.

PaCT Coordinating Council: Policy, Accountability, Advocacy, Communication

PaCT Implementation Team: Overall Project Management and Coordination

PaCT Task Forces: Purpose of these task forces is to align City of San Antonio (CoSA) resources with revitalization activities in the Promise Zone such as Promise and Choice Neighborhood implementation strategies, and carry out agreed upon work plans



San Antonio Eastside Promise Zone

Promise Zone Goals

Create Jobs

The San Antonio Promise Zone is employing a business expert to develop an economic development plan that will enhance the area's attractiveness to potential business owners and government contractors. It is using the SAGE Grow Eastside Fund to incentivize new businesses. The Promise Zone is also expanding other creative incentives, e.g., subsidized rent, insurance risk pools, and specialized security services.

Increase Economic Activity

The San Antonio Promise Zone is partnering with education and training providers to assemble high quality certificate or degree-based career training in local high-demand occupations. It is also prioritizing City of San Antonio funding for non-profits providing support services that remove barriers to employment and promote employment retention in the Promise Zone.

Improve Educational Opportunities

The Promise Zone is committed to increasing enrollment in high quality Pre-K programs. It is supporting local school districts' efforts to install a STEM program and is expanding enrollment in early college programs. The zone is also increasing adult education opportunities by partnering with St. Philip's College and supporting the conversion of a middle school into a community school with adult education.



Leverage Private Resources

The Promise Zone is pledging 50% of existing business assistance grants to Promise Zone enterprises and is developing an incubator/accelerator program for veteran entrepreneurs. Additionally, the zone is developing a capacity building plan for Eastside's nonprofit sustainability beyond the term of the Promise and Choice Neighborhood grants.

Reduce Violent Crime

To reduce violent crime, the Promise Zone is increasing proactive policing activities that take high-risk persons off the streets. It is also increasing situational prevention strategies (e.g. improved lighting, performing or requesting code inspections, cleaning up vacant lots, and razing abandoned buildings).

Additional Community Goals

The Promise Zone is increasing the accessibility of workforce development and adult education resources. Additionally, it is increasing affordable housing stock through partnerships with nonprofits to construct new houses on private and publicly owned infill lots, renovate vacant houses, and sell/lease them to eligible families.



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