

St. Louis Promise Plan



The Metropolitan Education and Training Center (MET) Center is a strategic partnership created to stimulate the economic self-sufficiency of individuals living in low to moderate income communities of the St. Louis region. The Center seeks to accomplish this mission by delivering focused, comprehensive and accessible job training, placement, assessment career development services and transportation services.

Lead Applicant: St. Louis City and St. Louis County

View [St. Louis Fact Sheet](#).

View [St. Louis Promise Zone website](#).

About the Promise Zone

The Promise Zone encompasses portions of North St. Louis County and North St. Louis City and includes Ferguson, Bellerive, Bel-Ridge, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, Cool Valley, Country Club Hills, Dellwood, Flordell Hills, Glen Echo Park, Greendale, Hazelwood, Hillside, Jennings, Kinloch, Moline Acres, Normandy, Northwoods, Pagedale, Pine Lawn, Riverview, University City, Uplands Park, Velda City, Velda Village Hills, Wellston.

The St. Louis Promise Zone is home to 199,792 residents, of whom 35.48% live in poverty. The median income in the Promise Zone is \$26,000, of the City/county median. Only two-thirds of residents, ages 25 or older complete high school and only 8% have a bachelor's degree. The Promise Zone has alarming high unemployment, high mortality rates in the life expectancy of residents, homelessness, vacant lot and buildings, TANF dependency, crime, drugs, gangs, and violence.

Overview

In a region where government fragmentation and jurisdictional competition have historically been barriers to progress, the Promise Zone designation will be a catalyst for ongoing collaboration and change that will drive future regional growth and prosperity.

The St. Louis Economic Development Partnership in partnership with St. Louis City and St. Louis County will focus on resident engagement, coordinating of efforts, supporting and building capacity and creating public-private partnerships to drive area revitalization and create a better, more inclusive St. Louis region.

Promise Zone Plan

The following five goals have been identified as instrumental to increasing the quality of life and accelerating efforts to create comprehensive community revitalization.

Increase Economic Activity

Strengthen high-potential business clusters by expanding the pipeline to jobs in these sectors, supporting/developing job hubs, and assembling land for businesses and jobs.

Strategies

- Focus development on high-demand sectors, livable wages and upward mobility.
- Invest resources to replace blight with opportunity and value-added amenities.
- Link schools' and training centers' curricula to the needs of high potential businesses.

Reduce Serious And Violent Crime

Achieve consistent annual reduction in the rate of violent crime across the promise Zone through greater collaboration among police departments and focusing resources in high-crime areas.

Strategies

- Achieve greater operational coordination and uniform high professional standards for all police in the Promise Zone and improved police-community relations.
- Increase funding for police departments to provide adequate manpower to ensure community safety.

Improve Educational Outcomes

Ensure that students in the Promise Zone are college and career ready by improving schools. Schools will be returned to accredited status and provide wraparound services to support children from birth through post-graduation.

Strategies

- Expand access to early childhood and parent education programs.

- Implement evident-based strategies to return underachieving schools to accreditation.
- Provide an array of services to promote high school attendance rate and reduce mobility.

Transformative Development

Design and implement a collaborative strategy for large-scale, mixed-income, mixed-use development that will foster transformative, sustainable communities.

Strategies

- Strengthen “marginally stable” Promise Zone neighborhoods to stem further decline and transform them into desirable places to live, work, and play, with adequate infrastructure, funding, and partnership in place to enable transformative development.

Health and Wellness

Address systemic needs and individual interventions to reduce disparities in the life-expectancies of Promise Zone residents.

Strategies

- Improve access to developmental, behavioral and mental health services for Promise Zone residents that promote healthy habits and behaviors, and safe, stable and healthy living and learning environments.