



Assemblymember Mia Bonta, 18th Assembly District

AB 1321 – IT TAKES A VILLAGE

(UPDATED – 03.10.2023)

SUMMARY

AB 1321 establishes a three-year California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services grant program to implement new, and strengthen existing, neighborhood and regional cradle to career (C2C) networks to reduce inequities and increase economic mobility in communities across California through integrated place-based support systems.

BACKGROUND

A strong understanding of the community and regional context, as well the effective coordination of services and supports aligned with the needs of the community, are essential to achieving better outcomes for children and families at every stage of life – from cradle to career.

Over the last 10 years, Promise Neighborhoods and other neighborhood, county, and regional C2C networks have worked in disadvantaged communities. Utilizing a place-based, equity-focused, cradle-to-career approach, these networks coordinate services and supports across the public and private sectors and collect and share data to maximize the efficiency and efficacy of programming.

Promise Neighborhoods, C2C networks, and similar entities have a proven track-record of success. Areas where these networks have operated have seen substantial improvements in healthcare access, literacy, and college and career readiness, as well as reduced child welfare and juvenile justice involvement.

Nineteen established C2C networks have been piloted using one-time federal and philanthropic investments. To scale these proven cradle to career solutions, the state must invest in the “It Takes A Village” strategy.

PROBLEM

Annually, California spends over \$200 billion in federal, state, and local dollars towards cash grants, food assistance, and other crucial services to children and their families. Despite these investments, children and families continue to live in communities of poverty marked by racial inequities, achievement gaps, health disparities, and many other indicators. Having locally embedded organizations dedicated to coordination could help to ensure that these investments, meet or

exceed their goals. To safeguard and maximize the return on California’s investments, the state must adopt a comprehensive approach from cradle to career.

SOLUTION

AB 1321 invests in communities and regions with persistent poverty by funding networks that do the following:

1. **Link, align, and leverage cross-sector community partners** for the effective and equitable distribution of services for children and families from cradle to career;
2. **Prioritize systems change** by informing, funding, and advocating for program and policy changes to positively impact economically distressed neighborhoods and communities; and
3. **Collect, assess, report, and share data** by working with partners and communities to identify the highest needs within neighborhoods, implement evidence-based C2C solutions, and use data to continuously improve programs.

By investing in place-based support systems, this grant program ensures children, families, and communities have the resources they need to thrive.

SUPPORT

- California Promise Neighborhood Network (co-sponsor)
- Cradle to Career Coalition (co-sponsor)
- End Child Poverty in California (co-sponsor)
- GRACE (co-sponsor)
- StriveTogether (co-sponsor)

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