

network stories

Mission Promise Neighborhood - San Francisco, Calif.



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actions

Mission Promise Neighborhood recognizes the expertise of Latinx families and has created spaces for them to lead. Two of these initiatives — the Parent Leadership strategy and Latinx Resolution — were in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and allow for capacity-building in leadership as well as putting those leadership skills into practice. Mission Promise Neighborhood also facilitated a shift in power during the pandemic by hosting virtual town halls with elected officials and San Francisco United School District administrators for parents to share concerns and ideas around distance learning and school reopening plans.

results

Through the Parent Leadership strategy, Mission Promise Neighborhood hosted a professional learning community for partner staff and parent facilitators. They have been able to shift decision-making for these meetings over to the parents, who co-create agenda content and rotate roles in meeting facilitation. Parents are also drafting policies for the Latinx Resolution that hold the district accountable for measuring and implementing solutions for educational disparities faced by Latinx youth. With their virtual town halls, Mission Promise Neighborhood brought together parents who often are unable to provide feedback on school procedures due to digital literacy and technological barriers. Data from their feedback is being used by the school district to inform their reopening strategies.



results cont.

Due to the combined efforts of their strategies, Mission Promise Neighborhood was able to help advocate for \$28.5 million in new city funding for a comprehensive COVID-19 response to the Latinx community, and built a distribution system for emergency income relief, housing assistance and small business loans to more than 5,000 Latinx community members.

takeaways

The Latinx community in San Francisco was the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the city did not have a public health strategy in place to address this disparate impact. By having collaborative processes already in place when the pandemic hit — and having built capacity and trust with parents within the Latinx community — Mission Promise Neighborhood was able to lift up parent voice to make crucial decisions regarding their child's education. This was also helpful in their ability to efficiently mobilize needed resources to those families.