

OVAE CONNECTION

U.S. Secretary of Education Announces \$30 Million for Second Round of Promise Neighborhoods Grants to Be Awarded This Year

On April 27, 2011, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced \$30 million in funding for a second round of Promise Neighborhoods grants—both planning and implementation grants. During his announcement, Duncan stated: “It’s vital that we continue this important work and provide more of our disadvantaged communities with resources that combat poverty and provide a high-quality education and essential social services for our children and families who need them the most.”

The Department of Education plans to announce the application process in the coming weeks. The grants will be available to eligible applicants—non-profits, institutions of higher education and Indian tribes. The deadline will be 60 days from the date the application is released, and grantees will be selected by no later than Dec. 31. This second round of Promise Neighborhoods funding was made available through the *Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011*, passed by Congress on April 14.

The Promise Neighborhoods program was launched by the Department in April 2010 as the first federal initiative to place education at the center of comprehensive efforts to fight poverty in urban and rural areas. The program is part of the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, a cross-agency effort that includes the White House Domestic Policy Council and the U.S. departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Treasury. In 2010, the Department awarded \$10 million to 21 applicants for one-year planning grants for cradle-to-career services designed to improve educational outcomes for students in distressed neighborhoods across the United States.

For more information on the Promise Neighborhoods grants and proposed priorities, please visit the March 2011 [Federal Register Notice](#). Interested entities may also wish to review [Proposed Implementation Grant Priority 8: Family Engagement in Learning Through Adult Education](#)—a priority for applicants with plans that are coordinated with adult education providers serving neighborhood residents, such as those funded through the *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act*.



OVAE Welcomes Annie Blackledge

OVAE is delighted to welcome Annie Blackledge on a one-year assignment through the [Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program](#). In her new role she will facilitate cooperation among OVAE, other federal agencies, and non-federal entities to ensure program policy and initiatives are informed by the best and most promising practices—that is, those designed to improve educational outcomes for vulnerable children and youth, and to increase access to education programs, services, and resources.

Prior to joining OVAE, Blackledge served as an education advisor with Casey Family Programs and was employed by the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) as the Dropout Prevention, Intervention, and Re-engagement Program Supervisor. In this position, she was responsible for development and oversight of dropout-related grant programs, the staffing of a state-level legislative workgroup, and representing OSPI as its foster care liaison.

Welcome Annie!