Education Narrative

Ensuring that residents in the Los Angeles Promise Zone have access to high quality schools is a crucial component of the LAPZ objectives. The significance of being prepared for college and career is highlighted by the fact that over 35% of residents 25 and older lack a high school diploma. Two-thirds of 8th grade students in the Promise Zone are not meeting grade math proficiency standards and only 24% of 3rd grade students are meeting English Language Arts (ELA) standards. The Promise Zone utilizes YPI’s Promise Neighborhoods framework as a template to develop strategies that increase college readiness, enrollment and graduation for students residing in the Promise Zone.

The four metrics used by the Promise Zone to measure college preparedness include:

1. **8th grade students at grade level in math:** based on the Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium in Mathematics; percentage meeting or exceeding requirements for years 2015 and 2016
2. **3rd grade proficiency in English:** based on the [California English Language Development Test](https://www.celdt.org/)(CELDT) scores for PZ schools; transitioned to the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California(ELPAC) by 2018. Years available: 2015, 2016.
3. **Four-year graduation rate**: percentage of students graduating high school in PZ schools, provided by LAUSD. Years available: 2014, 2015.
4. **% of 18-24 year olds enrolled in college**: including 2 or 4 year postsecondary institutions, from 2010 to 2014.

Economic Opportunity Narrative

Improved educational outcomes, public safety, and community sustainability closely connect to the economic health of households and businesses in the Los Angeles Promise Zone. With 25% of Promise Zone households earning less than $15,000 a year, the PZ strives to increase accessible, quality employment opportunities as well as financial literacy among its residents. These efforts align with strengthening the numerous small businesses in and around the Zone where over half of workers in the PZ are employed. In addition, the initiative aims to emphasize the rich cultural treasures that each community has to offer, drawing the attention of consumers and investors alike.

The three metrics used by the Promise Zone to measure economic opportunity include:

1. **Federal Poverty Line:** percentage of households earning income below the federal poverty line, based on American Community Survey data. The ACS determines poverty status by comparing a household’s gross cash income against a threshold of three times the cost of a minimum food diet in 1963. This threshold is updated annually for inflation and adjusted for family size, composition, and age of the head of household.
2. **Job Creation:** total number of jobs created, based on the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES), version 7, from 2010-2014.
3. **Private Investments**: dollar amount of total valuation for all construction permits, both commercial and residential, for new and existing buildings, based on data from the [Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety.](http://www.lausd.net/)

Public Safety Narrative

The welfare and protection of LAPZ residents are important aspects in the work of the Los Angeles Promise Zone. LAPZ residents experience public safety incidents such as crime and traffic collisions more frequently compared to the rest of Los Angeles. For instance, in 2012, the Promise Zone’s Part 1 violent crime rate was over twice the City-wide rate, according to data provide by LA Police Department and using Census 2010 population numbers. The Promise Zone goals and objectives related to public safety expand upon the collaborative partnerships and work established by YPI with federal support through the BYRNE Criminal Justice Innovation Grant, focusing on strategies that promote community policing and resident engagement approaches.

The three measures the Promise Zone tracks to measure the public safety climate within the Zone are meant to illustrate a non-conventional understanding of public safety.

1. Traffic Collisions (Motor Vehicles vs. Pedestrians): raw number of traffic collisions, experienced within the Promise Zone borders, both by census tract and total from 2009 to 2015.
2. Number of Part 1 Crimes: raw count of Part 1 crimes, defined as murder and non-negligent homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and arson. By census tract and total from 2011 to 2015.
3. Number of Part 2 Crimes: raw count of Part 2 crimes, defined as forgery and counterfeiting, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property, vandalism, weapons, prostitution and commercialized vice, sex offenses, drug abuse violations, gambling. By census tract and total from 2011 to 2015.

Communities Narrative

The Los Angeles Promise Zone initiative is dedicated to making PZ communities more sustainable and livable. Renters currently occupy about 93% of housing in the Zone. Over half of these renters are rent-burdened (paying 30% or more of income for rent), and one third are severely rent burdened (paying 50% or more of income for rent). Homelessness in the PZ also indicates that existing housing stock does not align with demand; 3,000 PZ residents experience homelessness at any given time. The Promise Zone initiative pursues a holistic vision for its communities, focusing on addressing housing-related needs while also investing in community benefitting infrastructure such as improving access to fresh food, parks, clean streets, and non-automotive transit options.

The three metrics used by the Promise Zone to measure sustainability and livability include:

1. **Housing Affordability:** percentage of households experiencing rent burden, determined by dividing gross rent by gross income; based on American Community Survey data.
2. **Homeless Population:** new and total number of jobs within and around the Promise Zone boundaries; based on American Community Survey data.
3. **Acceptably Clean Streets**: percent of streets within the PZ that are either “clean” or “acceptably clean” according to the City of LA’s Clean Streets Index