



COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACTION PLAN (CSAP)

# FRAMEWORK



The Campaign for  
**GRADE-LEVEL  
READING**



**The Community Solutions Action Plan (CSAP) will serve as the application for the 2012 All-America City Award and Charter Membership in the Grade-Level Reading Network of Leading Communities.**

**PART ONE: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW (Maximum 2 PAGES)**

Please summarize your community's story. It would help to provide the demographics. It would also help to illuminate the history, character, strengths, and challenges of your community.

**PART TWO: THE CSAP (15 PAGES, plus up to a 5-page Appendix for data and/or other explanatory information)**

## **ASSURANCE #1**

**The Problem:** Please provide a data-rich description of the current situation and recent trend lines for high school graduation, grade-level reading (3rd and/or 4th grade), school readiness, student attendance, and summer learning (summer school/program participation). Where possible, please disaggregate the data to illuminate the performance of children from low-income families, including race/ethnicity and English language learners, if available, and to spot outliers, dropout factories, trends, and anomalies that could inform the thinking and work.

Please provide an overview of the range of services and supports currently focused on addressing aspects of the problems described above. Where possible, it would be helpful to identify where key supports and services are missing and/or unavailable.

What conclusions have you drawn about the extent to which some, most, or all of the following contribute to the performance gaps between children from low-income families and their peers?

- Too little attention
- Too little information about what works
- Insufficient coordination among the key stakeholders and actors
- Inadequate resources
- Ineffective use of available resources
- Insufficient access to otherwise available resources
- Mismatch between the interventions and the needs

## **ASSURANCE #2**

**Destination (Desired Outcomes and Impact):** Please identify what your community has set as ambitious but achievable goals, targets, and milestones for school years 2012–2013, 2013–2014, and 2014–2015 and for 2016 through 2020, please provide a vision for where your community will be for school readiness, student attendance, summer learning, and third grade reading.

## ASSURANCE #3

**Strategy (Integrated and Intertwined):** Please outline the set(s) of coordinated activities, programs, and initiatives designed to respond to each of the core challenges (readiness, attendance, summer learning loss, and grade-level reading) and indicate the extent to which the efforts focus on:

- Strengthening, expanding, scaling, and coordinating existing programs and interventions;
- Importing, replicating, and adapting promising practices and model programs from outside the community; and
- Developing and inventing new and innovative approaches.

## ASSURANCE #4

**(Connecting for Synergy):** Please describe how your community's grade-level reading campaign will connect with, benefit from, and/or support other ongoing efforts and initiatives. Depending on your community, these could include some or all of the following:

- Local school improvement, education reform, and/or family support efforts supported by members of the Sponsoring Coalition;
- Initiatives by local school districts and state-level policy and/or initiatives; and
- Initiatives responding to the Promise Neighborhoods, Choice Neighborhoods, Striving Readers, Early Learning Challenge Fund, etc.

## ASSURANCE #5

**Data (Holders to Data Contributors):** Please explain the steps taken to ensure ongoing availability of and access to the data needed to set baselines, track progress, and ensure accountability. It would help to provide specifics on the following:

- Who has what data?
- What understandings have been reached and what agreements have been made to ensure ongoing access to needed data?

## ASSURANCE #6

**(Success and Sustainability):** Please explain the steps taken to ensure confidence that this effort will have the broad-based support, capacity, and resources to succeed and endure. Considerations include:

- Mobilizing key stakeholders and important constituencies;
- Identifying the tables, venues, and forums for conversation, ongoing joint planning, tracking progress/ making improvements, and collective action; and
- New and re-directed public, private, and philanthropic dollars as well as dedicated citizen service and volunteer contributions.

### PART THREE: OVERVIEW OF THE CSAP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS (2 PAGES)

*(The National Civic League’s All-America City Award recognizes community accomplishment through civic engagement. With that in mind, the review criteria will accord considerable weight to cross-sector collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and community outreach.)*

Please describe the process utilized to develop the CSAP. It would help to provide examples of special success, particular challenges, and lessons learned.

## CSAP REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

### OUTCOMES

**How likely is it that this plan will work?**

### IMPACT

**How likely is it that this plan will work at scale?**

### SUSTAINABILITY

**How likely is it that this plan will work at scale at least through 2020?**

### INNOVATION

**Does the plan propose:** (a) One or more “out-of-the-box” but replicable solutions? (b) Especially energizing ideas, new formulations, or more compelling re-framing? (c) Creative ways to align and/or integrate different programs and interventions? (d) New approaches to braiding and blending resources and funding streams? (e) Promising models for deploying and using technology?

### CSAP Process Considerations

**Cross-Sector Collaboration**—How effective was the CSAP process at providing elected officials and other key leaders of public, business, civic, and philanthropic organizations with a meaningful opportunity to share in the development of the plan and commit to its implementation?

**Stakeholder Engagement**—How effective was the CSAP process at providing parents and caregivers, service providers, program operators, and funders with a meaningful opportunity to share in the development of the plan and commit to its implementation?

**Community Outreach and Involvement (with special attention to diversity and inclusion)**—How effective was the CSAP process at providing the community as a whole (including English language learners and hard-to-reach families) with a meaningful opportunity to learn about the process and have their views and voices heard on the framing of the problem and the solutions proposed?