

Fresno Nonprofit Receives \$500K Academic Grant

A federal grant of just under \$500,000 will kick off a 10-year effort to infuse academic and career training into the poverty plagued neighborhood of Lowell, Jefferson and Webster near downtown Fresno.

The Promise Neighborhood grant from the U.S. Department of Education, is one of 15 proposals approved out of 200 organizations that applied nationwide.



The grant will have Reading and Beyond working with over 40 public and private partners to develop a plan that gives residents of the neighborhood the most possible support in providing a well-rounded education to children whose living conditions would induce otherwise.

After an initial planning phase with local community groups and organizations to identify academic and service needs of the neighborhood, Reading and Beyond will submit its findings and an action proposal to the Department of Education in hopes for more dollars to help implement the plan.

The grant was announced today outside of the Fresno City Council Chambers with a few words from Mayor Ashley Swearengin, Larry Powell, superintendent of the Fresno County Office of Education and Luis Santana, executive director of Reading and Beyond.

"This fund will not solve all of our problems," said Santana in a press release. "However, it will give us the resources to develop a 10-year plan for the for the Lowell/Jefferson/Webster neighborhood."

The nonprofit hopes that the ultimate plan will help students living in the neighborhood be healthy, safe, more proficient in core academic subjects and have access to the most modern learning tools, among other goals.