



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Thrive in 5 began in 2008 as a public/private partnership led by the City of Boston and United Way to help prevent the achievement gap by promoting school readiness and the healthy development of Boston's children from birth to age 5. Since its inception, Thrive in 5 has moved Boston forward and provided us with critical lessons that help to shape the agenda going forward – an agenda from which Boston cannot retreat. We are proud of our collective achievements over the past eight years:

- Contributing to an increase in the percentage of young children entering kindergarten with strong early language and literacy skills from 54% in 2009 to 63% in 2014 through our collaboration with multiple partners and community-based organizations around school readiness efforts;
- Leveraging \$23M in new resources for Boston's early childhood community, 95% of which has been granted to expand and improve local services and resources to families;
- Launching Boston Children Thrive, an on-the-ground effort that engages parents as their children's first teachers and as neighborhood-wide change agents for school readiness. In five Boston neighborhoods (Allston/Brighton, East Boston, South End/Lower Roxbury, Dudley, and Fields Corner), Thrive in 5 and its partners created networks of parents, community organizations, and neighborhood businesses that plan and carry out activities and opportunities that support young children's healthy growth, development and school readiness. In 2012, Thrive in 5 was honored with the Outstanding Achievement City Livability Award from the US Conference of Mayors for its Boston Children Thrive initiative.
- Enrolling 4,500 families (6,974 adults and 5,310 children ages five and younger – most of them poor to very poor) in Boston Children Thrive's Membership Card System. This innovative Membership Card creates a neighborhood-wide campaign that families can join to receive calendars, newsletter and other communications that inform them about upcoming community activities, events and programs. On the back end, the data collected through the families' use of the cards help the hub organizations understand demographics that may be underrepresented, so they can develop effective strategies to engage them.
- Improving early childhood program quality through its **Ready Educators Quality Improvement Project**, which engaged ten centers, the administrators of a family child care system that collectively serves over 800 children annually, and four of this system's family child care providers. In partnership with the Wellesley Centers for Women, this project helped programs gather and interpret data on children's developmental needs and program quality, then developed improvement plans and provided technical assistance to help programs build capacity in the areas in which children needed the most support.
- Launching Boston K1DS, a partnership between Thrive in 5, Boston Public Schools, the Massachusetts Department of Education and Care, the Barr Foundation and United Way. Boston K1DS is an innovative pre-kindergarten program that funded the implementation of the successful BPS preschool model in 14 community-based preschool classrooms in the City of Boston, serving over 200 four-year-olds. Through this collaboration, the community-based organizations received BPS's curricula and assessments, and their teachers received professional development, coaching and salary increases.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS | Page two

- Implementing Screen to Succeed, a city-wide early childhood developmental screening model, along with a technology infrastructure to support data collection. This initiative, now a part of DRIVE at United Way, increases access to developmental screening, and develops the infrastructure to capture, analyze, and aggregate these data to identify at-risk children, drive program improvements, and determine where policy and investments are needed to ensure that children enter kindergarten on-track. Thrive in 5 piloted an innovative peer-to-peer Parent Screener model to screen children not enrolled in formal early education and care but who access other community-based resources. To date, 24 programs in Boston are engaged in this initiative; the parent screener model has expanded citywide through the Boston Family Engagement Network; and over 2,500 children have been screened in Boston