



AAMC

Anchoring Achievement in Mexican Communities (AAMC) Initiative Information Sheet¹

The Anchoring Achievement in Mexican Communities (AAMC) initiative, funded by the Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation (DBAF) developed and implemented five community-based neighborhood networks in New York City. The initiative identified three goals aimed at improving the long-term educational and economic well-being of children, youth and families of Mexican origin in New York City through the development of five community-based neighborhood networks: one in each borough.

GOALS

1

Increase the availability of and access to high-quality education programs and services

2

Increase student and parent engagement in school- and community-based learning activities

3

Improve academic performance and employment prospects

Each of the AAMC networks is a trailblazer in harnessing collective capacity to better serve Mexican communities. The networks leveraged relationships and implemented innovative program models and approaches to dramatically increase access to services that deepened the breadth and depth of engagement of Mexican youth and families in educational and workforce programs.

¹ This information sheet summarizes two reports evaluating and documenting the AAMC initiative: Rojas, M., D'Andrea Montalbano, P., Sanzone, J., Johnston, E., & Ahram, R. (2017). Neighborhood Networks Supporting Mexican Immigrant Communities in New York City: A Report on Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation's Anchoring Achievement in Mexican Communities Initiative. New York: Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools, New York University. Youth Development Institute (2017). Making the invisible visible: Strategies for engaging Mexican youth and families. New York.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES

Networks Serving Youth Ages 0-8

1

Dual-Generation Literacy

- + Modeling literacy instruction and literacy-supportive behaviors
- + Beyond Literacy: additional support for parents and families

3

Synergy with Local Schools

- + Partnership with local schools
- + Out-of-school time programs

4

Additional Supports for Parents & Families

- + Navigating the education system

2

Academic & Career Education

- + Attending to immediate needs
- + Experience-building

Networks Serving Youth Ages 16-21

AAMC NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

Port Richmond / Staten Island Network

Project Hospitality
lead agency

Wagner College

Make the Road New York (MRNY)

El Centro del Inmigrante

East Harlem/ Manhattan Network

Union Settlement
lead agency

Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services

Boys' Club of New York

Mott Haven / Bronx Network

MASA_MexEd (MASA)
lead agency

Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP)

Mott Haven Library

Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (CHCF)

Bushwick/ Brooklyn Network

Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT)
lead agency

Churches Uited for Fair Housing (CUFFH)

Academy for Urban Planning High School (AUP)

Jackson Heights/ Queens Network

Internationals Network for Public Schools
lead agency

Make the Road New York (MRNY)

City University of New York (CUNY)

The networks produced results in a relatively short timeline to strengthen the education pipeline for Mexican and Mexican American youth. The AAMC story reflects a vision and belief in promoting positive youth development for young people and their families—and provides guidance for how the field of youth development can be more inclusive and responsive to its diverse communities. The AAMC networks demonstrate how to promote continued work and dialogue that supports educational success for Mexican and Mexican-American youth and families, as well as all immigrant communities.

AAMC Outcomes: Findings from interviews with program participants and staff

For early childhood and elementary school-level

Academic and career-readiness outcomes

- + Improvements in reading proficiency levels on standardized tests
- + Academic achievement in areas such as early numeracy and other mathematical concepts

Capacity-building outcomes

- + Gains in all modalities such as reading, writing, speaking, listening
- + Literacy skills (reading comprehension, critical thinking, and summarizing)
- + Writing skills (writing in different genres, organizing writing, and grammar)

For adult family members

Academic and career-readiness outcomes

- + Assistance applying for jobs

Capacity-building outcomes

- + Speaking and reading in English and in Spanish
- + Knowledge about child development
- + Learning pedagogical strategies that can be used at home
- + How to advocate for their children at their children's school

Community outcomes

- + Preserving cultural customs and values
- + Preserving food culture
- + Building relationships with other community members

For adolescents

Academic and career-readiness outcomes

- + Applying for jobs and college (e.g., resume writing and interviewing)

Capacity-building outcomes

- + College and career planning (selecting a career and a potential college, knowledge of the U.S education system, knowledge of the requirements to access college and financial aid)
- + Writing skills for professional settings (e.g., resume writing)

Community outcomes

- + Building relationships with other Mexican youth in different grades at the same school
- + Volunteering to support peers with college and career readiness