



My Brother's Keeper Houston

Frequently Ask Questions

1. What is My Brother's Keeper?

My Brother's Keeper is a movement to align, enhance and focus academic and family services to improve outcomes and opportunities for boys and young men of color.

Because boys and young men of color face significant disparities in educational achievement, exposure to the criminal justice system, low employment rates, President Barack Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative in February 2014. The President issued a challenge to local officials to become My Brother's Keeper communities and develop coherent "cradle-to-college-career strategies to improve outcomes and reduce opportunity gaps for boys and young men of color. There are six My Brother's Keeper goals:

- **Goal 1:** Enter school ready to learn
- **Goal 2:** Read on 3rd grade level by the 3rd grade
- **Goal 3:** Graduate high school ready for college or career
- **Goal 4:** Complete post-secondary education or training
- **Goal 5:** Enter the workforce successfully
- **Goal 6:** Reduce crime and violence and provide second chance opportunities

2. My Brother's Keeper in Houston

Mayor Annise Parker accepted the President's My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge in September 2014 and appointed the Director of the Houston Health Department to lead Houston's response. 'My Brother's Keeper Houston' was officially launched at our Local Action Summit held on November 13, 2014. The summit convened representatives from more than 75 Houston area non-profit, public, and private sector groups. After the summit, several work groups were formed to begin the process of developing our Local Action Plan that includes the strategies and actions necessary to achieve the My Brother's Keeper goals in Houston. The plan was released in May 2015. To learn more about the planning process and to view the Houston Local Action Plan, please visit <http://mbkchallenge.org/pdf/mbk-lay-the-groundwork-for-an-mbk-community.pdf> or click [HERE](#).

3. How does My Brother's Keeper Houston work?

My Brother's Keeper Houston is a collective impact strategy. It is a partnership that uses common goals, data and collaborative action to improve the systems (i.e. education, health, social services, and families) responsible for assuring the health and well-being of children.

4. Who is the city's lead agency for My Brother's Keeper?

The Houston Health Department serves as the backbone support organization for My Brother's Keeper Houston. It was developed using the collective impact strategic framework that includes five conditions for success: a common agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication and backbone support organizations.



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5. Who will benefit?

The target populations are the boys and young men of color who face the greatest disparities in achievement in the city. These boys and their families will be the primary beneficiaries. Because My Brother's Keeper Houston seeks to improve systems and policies that will support achievement, all children who are affected by these systems and policies will benefit.

6. How many communities will be served?

My Brother's Keeper Houston will initially serve three school feeder patterns within the Houston Independent School District. The areas chosen during the planning process include elementary, middle and high schools within the Kashmere, Wheatley, and Scarborough communities. There are 29 HISD schools as well as three (3) charter schools. There over 9,000 boys and young men of color attending these schools. To view the complete listing of targeted schools, visit <http://www.mbkhouston.org/ourcommunities> or click [HERE](#).

7. How was the school feeder patterns selected?

Academic and socio-economic indicators were used to determine the initial list of schools to target. Feedback from HISD administration narrowed the list of potential schools. The narrowed list of schools was submitted to the Texas Southern University's Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs. The school analyzed the spatial socioeconomic and school feeder data and made a recommendation for the three school feeder patterns that were ultimately selected.

Some of the indicators analyzed include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Graduation Rates
- STAAR Algebra
- STAAR English
- Economically Disadvantage
- Dropout Rates
- Expulsion
- At-risk Students
- Limited English Proficiency

For more information about the selection process, refer to pages 109-114 of the Local Action Plan <http://www.mbkhouston.org/ourcommunities> or click [HERE](#).

8. Is there a target duration?

As long as the partners who are participating in the initiative are willing to work together to achieve the six My Brother's Keeper goals, the work can continue. Because one of the tenants of collective impact strategy is common agenda, improvement targets will be set for each goal and will be monitored on a yearly basis. For example, goal #3 focuses on ensuring children are reading on grade level by the 3rd grade. My Brother's Keeper Houston will establish a baseline for what the current reading achievement is and establish improvement targets to reduce gaps. Strategies that



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have improved achievement will be expanded to additional areas of the city as resources become available.

9. How will this be funded?

My Brother's Keeper Houston will be funded by leveraging resources that already exist within the school district and participating entities including the City of Houston. The strategy is to use collective planning and service coordination to align these resources into practices that work. Additional funding contributed by the City of Houston will provide services that effectively coordinate and link families to services and to fill service gaps and expand capacity that cannot be provided with existing funds. The funds will be used to create prototype collaborative service strategies, which will attract additional funding from the philanthropic community as well as other public and private funding sources.

The resolution coming before City Council in November 2015, asks for Council to declare its support of \$1.3 million in fiscal year 2016. These funds became available from State grant dollars that reimbursed expended funds. This is a one-time source of funds. Houston Health Department will seek to leverage funds from other grants and community partners, as well as work with the City of Houston and Council for funds in future years.

10. Will there be additional matching funds?

The many agencies who have contributed to the planning work have already committed an enormous amount of in-kind resources to this effort. Other organizations that understand the importance and priority of My Brother's Keeper in the City of Houston will bring new resources to support our efforts. It is expected that in-kind service dollars, both existing and new, will be brought to the table by partners.

- **Matching Partner Example 1:** The Houston Galveston Area Council received a workforce development grant and has identified Kashmere, Wheatley, and Scarborough as the targeted service areas.
- **Matching Partner Example 2:** Big Brothers Big Sisters will expand availability of mentors in the targeted communities. While My Brother's Keeper Houston will work to recruit volunteers, Big Brothers Big Sisters' existing infrastructure will be used to administer the program. Resources from the city would only be needed if the demand for services for the area exceeds Big Brothers Big Sisters existing capacity.

11. How will a child get enrolled?

Children who live in these communities will have opportunities to participate through in school and out of school programs, services, and interventions that are available through the My Brother's Keeper Area Action Network.



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12. What about girls?

Programs, services and interventions will be available to all children within the school feeder patterns regardless of gender, age, or ethnicity.

13. How can I help?

- Take the My Brother's Keeper Pledge: <http://www.mbkhouston.org/#take-the-pledge-section>
- Sign up to receive the My Brother's Keeper Newsletter: www.mbkhouston.org
- Tune in to the MBK Weekly Radio Show on Fridays 9-11am: <http://player.listenlive.co/19581>
- Read to a Child: <http://www.connect4literacy.org/ReadHoustonRead>
- Become a Mentor: <http://www.bbbstx.org/>

14. How do I get more information?

For more information, email us at mbkhouston@houstontx.gov or visit www.mbkhouston.org.