

# MY BROTHER'S KEEPER HOUSTON MOVEMENT



## The Challenge

The City of Houston accepted President Obama's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Community Challenge in September 2014 and appointed the Director of the Houston Health Department (HHD) to lead Houston's response. 'MBK Houston' was officially launched at a Local Action Summit held on November 13, 2014. The Local Action Plan (LAP) was released in May 2015 and established 23 recommendations across all six (6) milestones outlined by the President's Taskforce.

## Milestones & Cross-cutting Strategies

MBK Houston adopted all of the following six milestones

1. Entering school ready to learn
2. Reading at grade level by third grade
3. Graduating from high school ready for college and career
4. Completing post-secondary education or training
5. Successfully entering the workforce
6. Reducing crime and violence and providing a second chance

The MBK LAP is anchored on six cross cutting strategies that are to 1) develop data and success indicators, 2) bolster parental engagement, 3) drive community partnerships, 4) promote in-school efforts, 5) engage progress monitoring systems, and 6) assess action plan effectiveness.

## My Brother's Keeper Houston

MBK Houston brings the resources of a wide spectrum of organizations, agencies and individuals together to take collaborative action to improve outcomes and opportunities for boys and young men of color who face barriers to success. Three geographic areas containing the following school feeder patterns are targeted for action: Kashmere High School, Wheatley High and Scarborough High School. There are 29 HISD schools as well as three (3) charter schools in these communities with over 9,000 boys and young men of color.

## MBK Houston Organization Structure

HHD serves as the backbone organization for the MBK Houston movement. There is an Executive Team and 6 Milestone Action Teams comprised of individuals from an array of public and private agencies. There are 3 Area Action Teams comprised of people who live, work or support the targeted neighborhoods. Additionally, MBK Houston includes several work groups (e.g. Data and Evaluation, Stakeholder Engagement, Development).

## Disparities for Houston's Minority Youth

> 50%

More than 50% of Houston's youth aged 10-24 years are Hispanic and a quarter are Black.

40%

Approximately 40% of Latinos and Blacks live in poverty

1 in 10

10% of male youths of color are admitted into a juvenile detention center.

2x

Out of school suspension rates for serious offenses are 2x higher among Black male youth compared to White male youth

3x

Hispanic males were almost 3x more likely to be uninsured than White males.

## MBK Houston Strategic Approach

- Build on what works
- Leverage existing resources
- Build support networks
- Use best practices
- Promote & support collaborations

## MBK Intervention Model Components

- Early literacy interventions and parent education
- Enhanced literacy programming
- Mentoring
- Early Warning System (EWS) (use of attendance, behavior and academic data to identify students who are off track)
- Systems of Care (response to EWS to get students back on track and includes assessments, information & referrals, wraparound services, care coordination, case management, behavioral health, health services etc.)
- Effective discipline management systems
- Male focused programming and events
- Connection with jobs training and college programs
- Increased job opportunities and entrepreneurial development
- Youth engagement
- Training to increase life skills, decision making, etc.
- Volunteerism



HOUSTON HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

More Information:  
[mbkhouston.org](http://mbkhouston.org)