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## **Achieving the Anchor Promise: Improving Outcomes for Children, Families and Communities ~ A Resource Review**

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## **Achieving the Anchor Promise: Improving Outcomes for Children, Families and Communities ~ A Resource Review**

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**Abstract:** *Achieving the Anchor Promise* (2013) offers insight into ways anchor community institutions such as hospitals or universities can measure the impact or key areas where they can play an effective role in bettering the welfare of their communities. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this research report highlights more than 75 in-depth interviews with individuals from a broad range of institutions including non-profit leaders, community activists, hospital and university administrators and federal officials. "Best Practices" as well as challenges are reviewed with the goal aimed at helping Anchor Institutions to move from programs to impact and ultimately to delivering benefits to low-income families and communities.

### **Review**

*Achieving the Anchor Promise: Improving Outcomes for Children, Families and Communities* (Dubb, McKinley, & Howard, 2013) examines community "anchor institutions" such as hospitals or universities, their role in community engagement and effectiveness in conducting their work in ways that explicitly improves the lives of low-income children, families and communities that are proximate to the respective institution. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this research report includes findings from over 75 qualitative interviews of individuals representing non-profit agencies, community leaders, federal officials, hospital and university officials from across the country.

The fifty page report highlights the following findings:

- Anchor institution motivations for engaging in community development
- Ways to institutionalize engagement
- Common challenges between anchor institutions and communities

- How institutions define “community”
- Community group benefits from Anchor Institution engagement work
- Shortfalls in anchor institution strategies from a community perspective and
- The challenges in measuring community impact.

The report authors (Dubb, McKinley, & Howard, 2013) conclude with a proposed dashboard of 12 key outcome areas designed to build knowledge in the field and lead to increased effectiveness of anchor institution work with and in communities.

The report is well structured with helpful figures to emphasize key points, an outline of “Next Steps” and an Appendix listing all interview subjects. Available at no charge on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website, the report provides important considerations for all individuals engaged in community development.

## References

Dubb, S., McKinley, S., & Howard, T. (2013). Achieving the Anchor Promise: Improving Outcomes for Children, Families and Communities. The Democracy Collaborative, Tacoma Park, MD. Annie E. Casey Foundation available at <http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/Publications.aspx?pubguid={4FIED48A-OCIB-4...>

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ISSN 2325-4009 (Print); ISSN 2325-4017 (Online)