

Vital Village Networks

at Boston Medical Center



FOUNDED: 2010

CURRENT ORGANIZATION BUDGET: \$1.95M

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Investment Opportunity

Vital Village Networks (VVN) is seeking a \$1.5M investment over the next two years to expand its local and national footprint. With increased operational leadership and fundraising capacity, VVN will double the number of civically engaged volunteers in its Service Learning and Leadership Model, advance the portfolio of early childhood research and evaluation, grow data stewardship and public dashboards, and expand its cross-sector networks. VVN will be poised to emerge as a national thought partner for hospitals and coalitions seeking to improve community health.

Vital Village Networks (VVN) builds the capacity of communities to optimize child well-being, prevent early life adversities, and advance equity. VVN convenes cross-sector networks, supports collective learning, and fosters partnerships between residents and organizations, guided by trauma-informed lens. Using a collaborative approach, the network creates innovations with community residents as designers and harnesses local community assets. VVN conducts research and develops public data dashboards and analytic tools to track benchmarks for child health, development, school readiness, and well-being. Through these combined efforts VVN is pioneering a sustainable approach to transforming systems of care and education in order for children to thrive in equitable, flourishing, resilient communities.

Success Starts Early – Kindergarteners with strong social and emotional competence are four times more likely to graduate from college.

Neighborhoods Matter – Children who grow up in neighborhoods with fewer social and economic obstacles have higher earnings, greater employment, and better health.

Childhood Trauma Impacts Health – Research shows that on average children with six or more adverse childhood experiences live nearly 20 years less than those with none.

Two-Year Goals

- Diversify funding to support operations capacity and sustainability
- Double the number of community leaders engaged in Service Learning and Leadership
- Expand the Supportive Trauma Interventions for Educators (STRIVE) Program from Boston to Gateway Cities
- Endow a scholarship fund for Service Learning and certification for community leaders
- Grow the network of hospitals and coalitions engaged in community capacity-building and systems change

Ways to Invest

FINANCIAL

- \$40,000 launches a new, year-long hospital or coalition partnership
- \$30,000 funds 15 fellowships for Community Leadership Certificates
- \$25,000 funds 10 community champion stipends for a year
- \$15,000 provides health equity training for 25 community leaders
- \$5,000 supports translation services
- \$3,500 funds trauma-sensitive training and tools for 10 classrooms

IN-KIND

- Design, communication, or development support
- Donation of technology to help members connect and collaborate
- Donation of community meeting space
- Volunteering to be a mentor for a community leader

Leadership & Governance

Vital Village Networks has a strong national board of physicians, educators, researchers, social workers, attorneys, nonprofit leaders, and community members who represent the cross-sector and cross-disciplinary approach necessary to build healthy communities.

A core of community champions co-create and lead efforts.

Dr. Renée Boynton-Jarrett is the Founding Director of the Vital Village Networks. She is a primary care pediatrician at Boston Medical Center and a social epidemiologist. Along with a talented and dedicated core staff, she provides backbone support for community-led efforts.

“

Vital Village is a village of people who care about other people, who want to help people who are having some problems they need help with, they know they can help them. . . Vital Village is a welcoming setting.

”

ANGE-YOLETTE BELLEGARDE
10-year-old Boston resident
Child of a VVN Member



VITAL VILLAGE NETWORKS MODEL



BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Vital Village Networks, based at Boston Medical Center, builds community capacity to solve inequities in child health and well-being through collaboration, research, data-sharing, training, and advocacy. VVN’s approach is guided by empirical research that demonstrates the benefits of community-based strategies and socially cohesive neighborhoods to prevent and mitigate childhood adversities. The VVN model originated and continues in Boston, and is also shared nationally through the NOW Innovation Forum, which provides technical assistance, training, and supports peer-based learning to use equity tools to drive community change.

INVESTING IN LEADERSHIP TRAJECTORIES

Residents who live in the communities they serve are often overlooked as designers of community solutions, although they are charting the course for building strong, equitable places for children and families. VVN forges a path for greater civic engagement and resident leadership to improve child well-being by providing established and emerging community resident leaders with mentors as well as advanced skills, resources, expanded networks, and partnership opportunities. This work is crystalized by VVN’s Service Learning and Leadership Model.

CONNECTING INSTITUTIONS

VVN engages and invests in institutional capacity-building, stronger cross-sector alignment, and stronger communities and community institutions by recognizing the wisdom and leadership of neighborhoods, reducing the need for doctors, lawyers, and emergency rooms. For example, the Supportive Trauma Interventions for Educators program (STRIVE), a VVN partnership with Boston Public Schools and Boston Medical Center Child Witness to Violence Project, trains teachers in new classroom strategies to address trauma and learning.

ADVANCING RESEARCH EVIDENCE AND DATA

VVN’s Community Data Dashboard uses local data to understand and improve health. The Dashboard’s user-friendly visualizations track child outcomes, neighborhood assets and disparities, and equips communities with a tool to advance partnerships and policy changes to build equitable communities. VVN’s Research Lab, CRADLE, builds the research evidence to address inequities by evaluating innovative community-based programs that use a two-generation approach (such as group based well child care) and developing tools to measure community-level determinants of health.

“

Here is what’s been birthed out of this whole strength-based initiative, acknowledging my own strengths and also believing in myself, believing that I have expertise. I have something to offer.

”

JOHN KING, JR.

Kudos Family Mediation Services



Key Investors

- BARR FOUNDATION
- DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- OVERDECK FAMILY FOUNDATION
- ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION
- THE GISELA B. HOGAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- VALHALLA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Partners

- BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
- BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- BOSTON CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
- FIRST TEACHER BOSTON
- URBAN COLLEGE BOSTON
- 75+ GREATER BOSTON PARTNERS
- 35 NATIONAL PARTNERS

HOW WE BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY

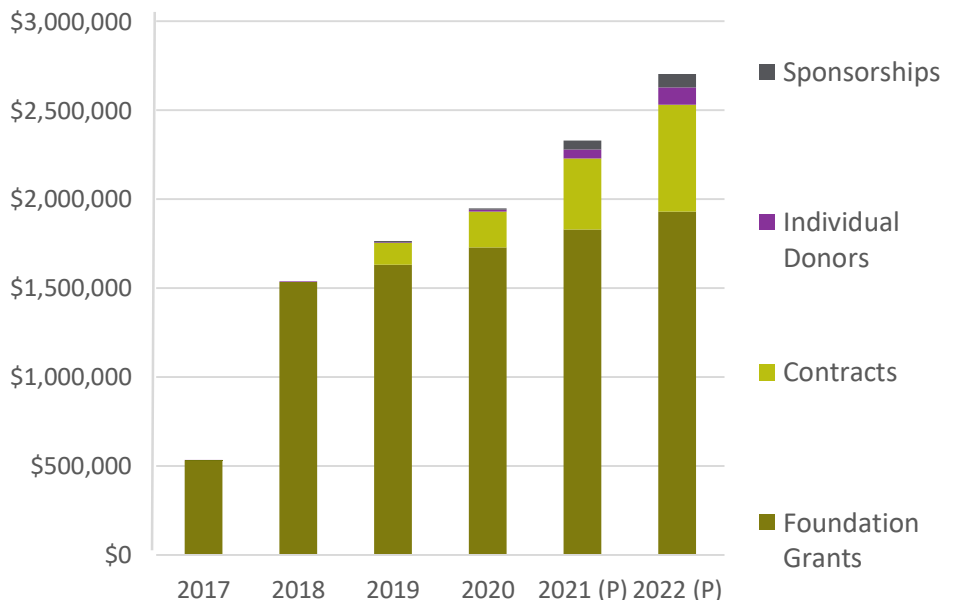
VVN supports the diverse forms of experience and wisdom needed to shape the equity agenda for families.

- **BELONG** – VVN supports a community of practice where people and organizations gather, via diverse forums, to build trust, connect, and collaborate. VVN uses co-design—a participatory approach to design where social innovations are developed cooperatively—and human-centered design so individuals and groups can and collaboratively lead.
- **LEARN** – VVN’s *Service Learning and Leadership Model* builds civic capacity and promotes social mobility for families. Through a service learning commitment, leaders receive cost-free opportunities for advanced skill-building and volunteerism. Rigorous research projects, like our CK-READY study which explores the impact of a group-based care on school readiness, builds evidence.
- **ENGAGE** – VVN’s popular *90-Day Challenge Model* supports aligning systems of health and education in early childhood by promoting peer learning and iterative improvement to rapidly scale and spread innovation in local and national work.
- **TRANSFORM** – VVN supports resources, opportunities and mechanisms to improve equity. VVN’s Community Data Work Group designed a Housing Data Tool to increase access to quality, safe, affordable housing through shared data, resources, and advocacy. They also designed a Dashboard and App to help neighbors find accessible, low-cost, high-quality food.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Over the past decade, VVN has experienced steady growth in size, geographic reach, and impact, while primarily being funded by foundation grants. In 2019 VVN established a financial model and blueprint to continue to expand geographically. The organization seeks to increase and diversify its revenue streams in the upcoming years.

Revenue by Source



Success Story:

Supportive Trauma Interventions for Educators (STRIVE) is an evidence-informed model to help schools identify, respond to, and support the unique learning needs of young children impacted by trauma.

The STRIVE model supports inclusive school environments by using an equity framework to highlight disparities in exposure to adversities. Co-created by educators and sustained independently by the school following the training, this innovative program has reached over 500 educators, 20 public schools, numerous early care centers, and over 4,000 students.

VVN has played a key role in the research, development, and implementation of STRIVE. Its evaluation shows improved student-teacher interactions, socio-emotional regulation, reduced classroom interruptions, and high acceptability by educators.



“VVN supports teachers in developing trauma-sensitive classrooms that encourage students to navigate emotions before conflicts emerge.... Making emotional vocabulary available in the classroom helps.”

JEFFREY CIPRIANI

Boston Public School Teacher
Teach Plus Teaching Policy Fellow

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

Below is a summary of the key measures that Vital Village Networks will track to demonstrate progress, create internal accountability, incorporate lessons learned, and adjust strategy as necessary over the next 2 years.

	FY 2020	FY 2021 (P)	FY 2022 (P)
PROGRAM PERFORMANCE			
Size of the Boston Network	1,800	2,300	2,800
Size of the National Forum	1,300	1,600	2,000
Active partner organizations	100	112	125
Civic engagement - volunteers (hours)	75 (4,500)	110 (7,500)	150 (10,000)
ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH/CAPACITY-BUILDING			
Full-time employees	9	10	12
Geographic footprint	12 States	14 States	15 States
Equity Partners Friends Circle Members	0	3	6
Board members	12	13	14
Total Revenue	\$1,950,000	\$2,330,000	\$2,700,000

SOCIAL IMPACT

VVN strengthens community capacity by developing leaders, connecting institutions, and building research evidence and shared data systems. An independent evaluation of VVN Boston in 2019 found high collective capacity for community change as measured by sustainable infrastructure, distributed leadership, use of data for improvement, collaboration, and inclusion. VVN members routinely evaluate the network’s performance and use data for improvement.

Since 2016, VVN has grown its footprint nationally to include work in 12 states and an intensive NOW Learning Community of 10 community coalitions. An independent evaluation of VVN’s impact on these 10 coalitions reveals substantial improvement in development of action plans, strategies, and engagement that advanced racial equity: inclusion of community members in leadership roles; coalitions’ capacity to tell the story of their work with data and operationalize equity; stronger communication with policy stakeholders.

BOSTON INDICATORS	2019
Members receive training or resources to address childhood trauma from VVN	89%
Members feel VVN leadership development and mentorship is successful	96%
Partners report VVN is successful in supporting cross-sector collaboration and increasing access to tools and data on child well-being	92%
VVN organizational partners improve practices to support staff wellness	91%
Partners and members involved ≥ 3 years	75%
NATIONAL INDICATORS (% Increase over 18 months)	2019
Coalitions increase work to address racial equity to improve child health	75%
Coalitions address health equity through cross-sector collaboration	70%
Coalitions develop inclusive and diverse governance structure and process	67%