



Powered by Reading Partners: Housing Communities



Reading Partners works with housing communities to bring high-quality literacy support to young readers.

CASE STUDY COMMONBOND COMMUNITIES

CommonBond Communities is a nonprofit organization that provides housing and wraparound services to residents across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and South Dakota.

Since the 2023-24 school year they have partnered with Reading Partners at multiple community sites throughout the Twin Cities metro area. The goal: transform the academic content of their **Study Buddies** program from homework help to structured literacy support using the Powered by Reading Partners model in order to shrink literacy gaps among participants.

"Reading Partners has been phenomenal to work with every step of the way. They took the time to align their program model and curriculum with our goals and existing structure to ensure our team understood how to implement Reading Partners with fidelity while maintaining the key aspects of programming our youth were accustomed to."

— **Alecia Leonard**,
vice president of advantage
services at CommonBond
Communities

Program structure

CommonBond Communities piloted Powered by Reading Partners tutoring across six community sites in 2023. The tutoring program is now a core component of their academic programming. Students are enrolled on a rolling basis and attend tutoring sessions once a week. The majority of students attend their tutoring sessions in person with their tutors, but a few students meet online via the Reading Partners Connects online platform. In the following years, CommonBond's goal has been to further solidify the program by enrolling more students, deepening their impact with them, and adding dedicated staffing capacity.

Roles and responsibilities

- **PROGRAM COORDINATORS** — Coordinate the program: manage the schedule, administer assessments, communicate with families and tutors, and facilitate Reading Partners Connects.
- **PROGRAM MANAGER** — Serves as the main point of contact with Reading Partners and ensures program coordinators are set up for success.
- **VOLUNTEER MANAGER** — Recruits and trains volunteers serving in the Study Buddies program.
- **VOLUNTEER TUTORS** — Provides individualized literacy tutoring to their assigned students, along with additional social-emotional learning activities.



Program impact since 2024



100 students enrolled



34,000 minutes
of tutoring delivered
to students



85% of students
increased their
Scaled Score

From our partners at CommonBond Communities:



5 out of 5 were satisfied with their experience with tutoring powered by Reading Partners, and would recommend it to other organizations.