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Burleson is featured in the National League of Cities' national report on City Leadership and Families for the Burleson Opportunity Fund. The report highlights efforts by cities to improve the lives of children, youth and families in communities with populations below 75,000.

The Burleson Opportunity Fund is a joint effort of the City of Burleson, Burleson Independent School District, Hill College, and donations from local businesses, groups and individuals. Students who graduate from a Burleson high school or live in Burleson and graduate from a nearby high school are eligible for a scholarship that fully covers tuition and fees for two years of attendance at Hill College at Burleson. The catalyst for the project was the City's Strengthening Families Initiative (2007) in which local leaders discussed strategies for improving services to children, youth and families. These leaders established a college scholarship fund to raise the expectation that all high school graduates in Burleson will have the chance to obtain a postsecondary education and to promote local economic development by building a more educated workforce. Initially, the Burleson Opportunity Fund covered one year of tuition and fees. The board of directors recently approved funding for two years of tuition and fees for current and future scholarship recipients.

"Municipal Leadership for Children and Families in Small and Mid-Sized Cities" describes innovative strategies from more than 40 cities and towns. The report contains examples of early childhood development, education, health and safety, family economic success, neighborhood revitalization, and youth civic engagement.

NLC's report draws upon information gathered from surveys, interviews, and a scan of promising practices identified by NLC's Institute for Youth, Education, and Families and state municipal leagues. It explores the unique challenges and opportunities facing small and mid-sized cities that seek to improve outcomes for children and youth.

The National League of Cities is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. Go to www.nlc.org/smallcities to view the report.