Equitable Engagement

Strategies

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Sustainable Neighborhood Network Retreat

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City and County of Denver’s Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency
Agenda

10:45am  Introductions & Review of Agenda
10:50 am  What is Engagement & Why is it Important?
10:55 am  Overview of some Best Practices
11:05 am  Hands-On Exercise | Rapid (Needs) Assessment
11:55 am  Wrap-Up
What is Engagement & Why is it Important?
Sample Best Practices for Community Engagement*

- Meetings/Timing
- Meetings/Notice
- Meetings/Outreach Methods
- Different Ways to Receive Community Input
- Methods for Organizations & Agencies to Receive Community Input
- Considerations for when selecting in-person meeting locations
- Outreach Materials

*From Draft 3-State Environmental Justice Task Force Recommendations
Rapid (Needs) Assessments

- Why a Needs Assessment?
- Diagnostic versus Prescriptive/Solutions-Focused
- The Importance of Clearly Identifying the Problem Articulating Your Question
Rapid (Needs) Assessments

CASR’s Rapid Assessments Best Practices

• Due Diligence Research and Interviews
• Partnering with an Anchor Organization
• Co-Creating Methodology with Local Leaders
• Language Justice
• Compensation
• Food & Childcare
Needs Assessment Example

Denver
Rapid Assessment Process

Pre-Meeting 1.5 hour
Non-Profits, Institutions, Other Stakeholders

Meeting 2 2 hours
Pre-Meeting Participants

Meeting 3 2 hours
Youth

Meeting 4 2 hours
Resident Adults

Most Urgent Issue
Priority Needs
Major Barriers

The Whole Process Was Co-Created & Co-Facilitated with:
- Local Vendor and Neighborhood Planning Committee
- CARE-J Committee

Process not meant to envision or prescribe solutions but to be diagnostic
Needs Assessment Exercise
Sample Facilitation Strategies and Guiding Principles

• Provide an overview of, make sure everyone clearly understands, the goals and the process
• Time-keeping: Provide breathing room in agenda and be mindful of time so you don’t have to rush the process
• Assign notetaker/s
• Checking accuracy of notes/constantly getting clarification if needed
• Create a space where everyone feels respected and safe to share and that their voice is valued
• Be flexible
• Use demographic and surveys if appropriate
Supply list

- Big sticky notes and/or white board
- Dots
- Markers
- Pens
- Forms
- Food
What are the priority needs in your neighborhood?
1. Facilitator per group
2. Notetaker per group
Priority Needs Report Out
Prioritization

Write down your 2 votes
Wrap up

Thank you!