



Recommendations from Culturally Specific Providers

In preparation for our July meeting, we asked the following questions of our culturally specific provider partners.

- (1) Which strategies that we currently use are working in your community, and are there others we should be investing in?
- (2) What are the short and medium term steps we could take to significantly impact homelessness in the communities you serve?

Summarized below are the recommendations presented to the Board (contained in the July CB minutes), and also a link to the recommendations of the Coalition of Communities of Color.

El Programa Hispano

- Flexible resources/funds for the individuals and families with little or no access and/or the highly marginalized segment of the Latino population (i.e. immigrant and undocumented population)
- Accessible and flexible resources/funds for individuals and families that are doubled/tripled up
- Refine/redefine the definition of homelessness, so that it is not exclusive and is more inclusive of the actual population experiencing homelessness.
- Get out into the community and reach out to faith based organizations, parishes and churches, where the Latino homeless community is being seen and aided.
- Open doors or at least the ability to gather data from other systems that are seeing/serving the individuals or families that are excluded from mainstream services.
- Need for units to place high barrier clients in.
- Landlords may have unreasonable expectations and discriminatory practices.
- As the community further aligns resources and systems, a very distinct population of people is excluded. Recommended system alignment pieces be analyzed, that resources be flexible and available, and allocated/directed to those that have little or no access.
- Investments that would have the largest immediate impact in the Latino community is housing resources.
- Need for a creative way for creating sustainable housing for the Latino community and other communities of color.
- Have a strategy in place with the creation of new affordable housing that is tied to equitable policies that reflect the needs of communities of color.

Urban League

- Clients report facing discrimination from mainstream organizations or people of color are more likely to be excluded from shelter because of behavioral problems or personality conflicts
- Units to place clients with persistent barriers to housing that may include felony backgrounds or a record of eviction
- Need funding/capacity to provide culturally specific services and personal advocacy
- Need for agencies to have direct connection to provide clients with access to crucial resource/service
- Flexible resources for eviction prevention for doubled/tripled up

- More funding for effective programs such as SEI and PCRI
- Have a sustainable fund for affordable housing stock

NAYA Family Center

- Flexible resources for eviction prevention for doubled/tripled up
- Unstable housing can lead to poor education, which leads to few/no opportunities (need to stop the cycle of instability)
- Lack of trust in education, legal, and social system
- Need for funding/capacity to provide trauma informed, long-term, culturally specific services and personal advocacy, and more specifically someone to walk client through the system and beyond
- Redefine the definition of homelessness to include the doubled/tripled up
- Need for more resources/funding for seniors.

Additional Board Recommendations related to Improving Equity

- Resources for capacity to walk clients through solutions
- Build capacity at culturally specific providers
- Agencies hire staff from communities of color
- Accept standard definition of homelessness to include doubled up
- Strengthen partnership with schools
- Revisit provider staff to client ratio expectations, and support for staff to avoid burnout
- Capture who is missing/more comprehensive assessment (example: undocumented immigrants)
- Strong culturally specific link in discussions about health and mental health strategies

Coalition of Communities of Color Recommendations

The policy recommendations contained in *Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile*, are found on pages 123-127 at this link:
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/article/448756>