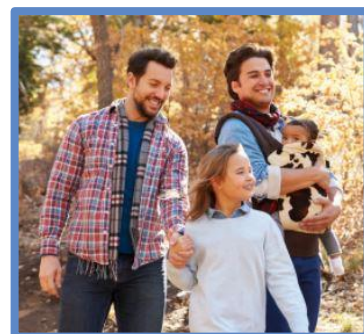
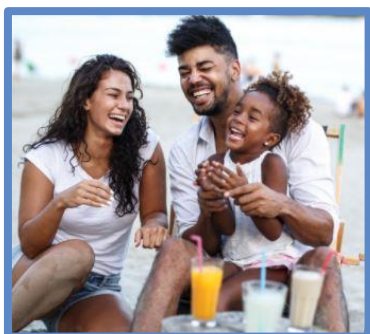


The Population Health Innovation Lab's COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN ACTION

Spotlight on Community Engagement: Long Beach, CA

All Children Thrive Long Beach (ACT) is an Accountable Community for Health enabling systems transformation in the City of Long Beach [Long Beach] to ensure that “all children and families are loved, healthy, learning, thriving, and succeeding.” ACT brings together a variety of local partners and works with residents, parents, and families of Long Beach to co-create solutions and enable actions to address social determinants of health for children ages 0-8 years old and their families.



Long Beach is a highly diverse community and ACT aims to honor and elevate residents' varied perspectives, experiences, and knowledge. ACT recognizes residents as key stakeholders and is enabling residents to decide how they can be integrated meaningfully into work. ACT took advantage of the Population Health Innovation Lab's (PHIL) Art of Hosting (AoH) Training to learn more about authentic and effective community engagement. Staff from the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services that attended the training described it as “transformational” and convincing of the concept that building effective relationships is a key starting point for creating trust to move work forward and expand possibilities.

After the AoH, ACT staff participated in the subsequent Community of Practice (CoP) around community engagement, led by PHIL. As part of the CoP, ACT applied for and was awarded a \$1,500 microgrant from the California Accountable Community for Health Initiative (CACHI). The grant was used to support three community engagement design sessions targeting parents and an asset mapping event using the Asset-Based Community Development framework.

The parent-focused design sessions were conducted to invite local parents to become part of ACT the leadership body (the ACT Steering Committee) and to gather parents' feedback on how best to engage and integrate residents like themselves in the leadership body. Parents were empowered to participate in sessions by providing them with childcare and a small stipend for their time. As a result of these sessions, seven of the participating parents became active Steering Committee members. To support the success of parents in this vital role as decision-making partners, they were each provided with training. The training built capacity and empowered parent to readily engage at the Steering Committee level by teaching them more about ACT and equipping them with new ways to engage in a meeting setting.

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The skills taught were reinforced through practice during the training. Additionally, the trainings provided parents with a supplementary opportunity to help design how Steering Committee meetings should better operate to make sure family leaders feel welcomed.



Microgrant funding also helped to support an asset mapping exercise that one participant described as an excellent event that was generative of “valuable contributions.” This event allowed residents and representatives from over 40 agencies to examine Long Beach’s current assets as a way to begin understanding how to build solutions for community issues on a foundation of what already exists. Assets were

grouped into one or more of the following categories: individuals, associations, institutions, spaces (physical areas and places on and under the earth in Long Beach), exchanges (where buying, selling, trading, and bartering can occur), and culture. Together, participants generated a list of over 300 assets in the community that are related to the target population for ACT—children and their families.

ACT, as an Accountable Community for Health, has a Portfolio of Interventions (POI) to guide next steps for its work that will allow for the achievement of set short, medium, and long-term outcomes. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the exacerbations of community struggles, however, has required ACT—like collaboratives in many communities—to re-evaluate what work must happen in the present to ensure that community needs are met. Current efforts are, therefore, mostly COVID-19-driven, however, a point of encouragement for those involved in this collaborative model is that the existence of ACT and its foundation of working to understand community needs and form relationships has allowed for more coordinated and quick responses between agencies and the City of Long Beach to COVID-19. For ACT, the POI is functioning as a guide on how to build a COVID-19 response and recover model. Additionally, the list of assets generated through the Asset-Based Community Development exercise is being used to engage the community to apply for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funding. ACT continues to apply diverse tools and its first-hand knowledge to innovate and support families in Long Beach in responsive, yet integrated ways.

