

South West Food Coalition Partnership and Priorities



Ken Knoblock
Paola Babb



What to expect today:

- Get to know the Southwest Food Coalition.
- Learn best practices in community engagement work.
- Talk about where you're at with community engagement and where you'd like to go.
- Make plans for next steps.

The South West Food Coalition

- Southwest Denver metro has many organizations and groups who work to address hunger needs in our communities.
- In 2020, demand for food skyrocketed and there was funding, fresh food, and resources but the existing systemic issues prevented an effective and equitable distribution of food.
- Many solutions have been suggested but it became apparent that we can only be successful with support from a network of providers and community. Food insecurity is a community issue that demands a community driven solution. The coalition works at a hyper local level to make more of an impact and help the community thrive.
- Leadership- Temporarily led Lifespan Local

The South West Food Coalition

Purpose:

- Create a truly collaborative team of food champions in Southwest Metro Denver.
- Take action to address food insecurity and food sovereignty at a hyper local level with support from regional partners.

Values:

- Quality, healthy, culturally appropriate and fresh food
- Access to food
- Spreading resources equitably throughout neighborhoods
- Dignity and client choice
- Local food purchasing
- Working with everyone – farmer to consumer
- Paying community members – staffing, income generation
- Community led and informed
- Minimizing food waste

Goals of the Coalitions

- **CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COALITION AND CAB**
 - The coalition wants its members to grow as leaders and will ensure there are shared learning opportunities that take place throughout the year.
- **FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY**
 - Better coordination with food systems collaborators
 - Centering voice of community
 - Training coalition members on Community engagement practices
 - Surveying clients for program improvement
 - Prioritize culturally relevant foods
 - Focus on local procurement of food
 - Benefit enrollment (SNAP and medicaid)
 - Create a community and coalition resource guide
 - HFDK grant!
- **COLLABORATE ON SHARED FUNDING**
- **COALITION OPERATIONS**
 - Membership - doing outreach to new partners
 - Evaluation - evaluate effectiveness
 - Creating a culture of belonging and inclusivity

Centering Voice of Community

- **SWFC Community:**
 - Food Pantries, Schools, Churches, Community Leaders, Community Connectors, Resource Centers, and Local Businesses
- **How you engage them:**
 - through the bi weekly coalition meetings
 - one-on-one meetings and site visits
 - listening sessions
 - community advisory board
 - surveys
- **Purpose engagement:** Ensure we address food insecurity in SW Denver and SE Jefferson county in a community informed way

**What does your organization mean
by community?**

Who is your community?

Why Community Engagement Matters

Community-based programs and policies can be a catalyst for resiliency, self-determination, connection, and liberation.

- It is the way to move towards more equity-centered solutions
- It fosters trusting relationships and create pathways for shared power
- It celebrates the community work that is being done while continuing to move it forward.



**FOOD IN
COMMUNITIES**

**List out all of IFCS'
current programs?**

The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership

El Espectro del Compromiso con la comunidad

Increased efficiency in decision-making and solutions implementation = EQUITY


STANCE TOWARDS COMMUNITY:	0 IGNORE <i>IGNORAR</i>	1 INFORM INFORMAR	2 CONSULT CONSULTAR	3 INVOLVE INVOLUCRAR	4 COLLABORATE <i>COLABORAR</i>	5 DEFER TO <i>DEFERIR A</i>
GOALS:	Deny access to decision-making processes	Provide the community with relevant information	Gather input from the community	Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process & inform planning	Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in decision-making and the implementation of decisions.	Foster democratic participation and equity through community-driven decision-making; Bridges divide between community & governance



**FOOD IN
COMMUNITIES**

Spectrum of Community Engagement

El Espectro del Compromiso con la comunidad

STANCE TOWARDS COMMUNITY:	0 IGNORE <i>IGNORAR</i>	1 INFORM <i>INFORMAR</i>	2 CONSULT <i>CONSULTAR</i>	3 INVOLVE <i>INVOLUCRAR</i>	4 COLLABORATE <i>COLABORAR</i>	5 DEFER TO <i>DEFERIR A</i>
GOALS:	No access in decision-making processes	Provide the community with relevant information	Gather input from the community	Ensure community needs and assets are integrated.	Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in decision-making and the implementation of decisions.	Foster democratic participation and equity through community-driven decision-making
ENGAGEMENT		Flyers Fact sheets Videos Presentations Open House	Focus groups Surveys Public Comment	Organizing Workshops Listening-Sessions Community groups Coalitions	Advisory Boards MOUs Co-design of work 	Community driven planning, implementation, budgeting and decision making

**Within your different programs
how are you engaging your
community?**

What has been the outcome?

What are your challenges to community engagement?

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Questions for IFCS?

- What pillar do you want to focus on?
- Where do you aspire to be?
- What are the objectives of involving the community?
- What are the desired outcomes?
- Are you willing to make changes based on what you hear?
- What is your capacity?
- Are you willing to share power?
- What is your purpose of engaging the community?

Let's write a purpose statement



Why do you want to engage your community?

Template: As the [ORGANIZATION], we want to engage [COMMUNITY] in [ENGAGEMENT METHOD] in order to [OUTCOME].

Examples:

- 1. Lifespan - As the food team at Lifespan Local, we want to engage residents, schools, churches, pantries, community agencies, local businesses, urban growers, and residents/ leaders/champions in listening sessions, co-design of work and community driven planning, workshops and trainings in order to create food systems where everyone can be involved and that work for people.*
- 1. As a CEO I want to engage my staff in the revision of internal policies and procedures, so I can ensure I am fostering a culture of inclusion and transparency in how we operate as an organization.*
- 1. FIC*

**What is your action plan for
engaging the community?**

**How will you move from ignoring
to community ownership?**

What questions do you have?

Toolkit: Community Engagement 101

Let's Operationalize the work! In this toolkit you will find templates and guides to help you get started depending on what part of the spectrum you are working in:

- **CONSULT:** Surveys
- **INVOLVE:** Coalitions
- **INVOLVE:** Listening Sessions/Community Conversations
- **INVOLVE:** Storytelling as an Organizational Practice
- **COLLABORATE:** Community Advisory Council
- **COLLABORATE:** Community MOUs
- **OTHER:** Resources Folder

Toolkit: Community Engagement 101

The toolkit contents are all shared in google drive and can be accessed by visiting bit.ly/communityeng101

The screenshot shows the Google Drive interface. At the top left is the Drive logo. On the right, there is a 'Sign in' button. Below the header, the folder name 'Community Engagement 101' is displayed. To the right of the folder name are the options 'DOWNLOAD ALL' and a list view icon. Below the folder name, there is a section for 'Folders' with a 'Name' column and an upward arrow. The folders listed are: Coalition Building, Community Advisory B..., Community MOUs, Listening Session/Com..., Resources, Storytelling Resources ..., and Survey.