



Ensuring Opportunity
The Campaign to Cut Poverty in Contra Costa County
October 16, 2014 Convening Notes

Thursday, October 16, 2014
Pleasant Hill Community Center

HIGHLIGHTS from the Six Focus Area Discussions

The full listing of comments from participants at the October 16 convening is available at www.cutpovertycc.org. This is a summary of highlights from the six Focus Area group discussions.

- Economic Security
- Education
- Food Security
- Health Security
- Housing Security
- Safety

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A special thanks to all of the facilitators of these six Focus Area discussions!

KEY STRATEGIES

The following Key Strategies were mentioned across all Six Focus Areas:

- Engage Key Stakeholders and Constituencies
 - Research: Best Practices and Case Studies
 - Public Awareness (Debunk Myths, Deepen Awareness)
 - Public Policy (Mobilize around key advocacy and legislative opportunities)
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FOCUS AREA: ECONOMIC SECURITY

Overarching Goal: Achieve Economic Security and Shared Prosperity

Key Strategies:

1. Increasing the minimum wage with the goal of a living wage in mind
2. Creating a positive climate for economic development
3. Workforce Development – Job Development, Training & Readiness

Other Initiatives Proposed

1. Research/Review best practices, advocacy platforms, and models for civic engagement

FOCUS AREA: EDUCATION

Overarching Goal: Foster Quality Education leading to promising professional opportunities

Key Strategies:

1. Funding
2. School Readiness
3. Parental Engagement
4. Fair and Equitable Compensation for Educators

Other Initiatives Proposed

1. Comprehensive, county-wide approach to support schools and ensure quality standards

FOCUS AREA: FOOD SECURITY

Overarching Goal: Reduce Hunger

Key Strategies:

1. Increasing enrollment in CalFresh
2. Mitigating disparities in the accessibility of food and nutrition resources
3. Promoting healthy eating across all age groups
4. Improve access and availability of other services and resources through improved coordination

Other Initiatives Proposed

1. Media and other public outreach efforts to debunk myths and fears associated with accessing all entitlement programs

FOCUS AREA: HEALTH

Overarching Goal: Quality and Affordable Healthcare for All

Key Strategies:

1. Enrollment in Covered California
2. Providing coverage for the uninsured
3. Assisting with access and navigating health care resources such as Rotacare
4. Participating in California's Coordinated Care Initiative to better low-income seniors and persons with disabilities

FOCUS AREA: HOUSING AND SHELTER

Overarching Goal: Eliminating Homelessness

Key Strategies:

1. Preventing Homelessness
2. Providing housing to those who become homeless to avoid more crises
3. Ensuring accessibility to a variety of supportive services
4. Developing housing that is affordable for homeless and low-income people

Other Initiatives Proposed

1. Support the Zero: 2016 campaign to address chronic and veteran homelessness

FOCUS AREA: SAFETY (Family and Community Violence)

Overarching Goal: Ending the culture of violence, trauma, and victimization

Key Strategies:

1. Anti-poverty programs
2. Other prevention strategies aimed at communities, schools, specific populations (e.g. perpetrators, victims, and survivors of violence)
3. Developing knowledge, skills, and systems that reflect trauma-informed practices
4. Providing services and resources to prevent and/or recover from violence-driven trauma