



Solutions from the Community

During the listening sessions, participants were asked “What are some things you would like to see in your community to address these issues?” and “What are some ideas you have?” In general, several listening sessions participants mentioned the need for better coordination across health services to ensure continuity of care. Another common theme noted across the sub-populations was the need for more cultural sensitivity by healthcare providers.

Next are some of the solutions for the top 3 priority areas from the overall population of participants as well as some of the other top issues in the sub-populations.



Mental Health »

Several of the listening sessions mentioned the need for more mental health providers for both adults and children as well as more information on how to access these services. It was recommended that mental health services be offered at the schools as well as drug use prevention. The participants also cited that there were not enough African American or Hispanic mental health providers who could better understand their cultural background and experiences.



Housing »

A majority of participants expressed the view that current rental and home prices are unaffordable for those seeking immediate housing. Participants recommended more programs to help families own homes including financial counseling and assistance, legal assistance, and home repair training. For those who are formerly incarcerated, participants suggested more halfway houses or other low rent housing that does not discriminate against people with criminal records.



Education >>



Many participants suggested teaching life skills such as financial literacy, cooking and nutrition, and managing interpersonal relationships without violence - either in schools or in community-based organizations. Participants also highlighted the necessity for skills preparation to navigate the job market, including acquiring trade or computer skills, and other competencies relevant to the current job market. Assistance in applying to college and funding for college was also cited by some participants. Intergenerational learning programs were suggested where older people teach life skills to younger people and younger people teach computer skills to older people.

Available Resources >>

Most sessions discussed that there may be available resources, but there needs to be better communications about these resources using both digital and physical modes of communication. Digital strategies include having a trusted and reliable internet search site that coordinates available resources such as United Way 211, local government websites, and Facebook or other social media sites for sharing information, with emphasis on resources for persons with disabilities. Physical modes include health fairs, sharing information (flyers, brochures etc.) in public spaces, and having community health workers/navigators doing outreach in communities.

