

Near Southeast Area Plan Phase 2 Intentional Engagement Summary



Participants

- Four community navigators confirmed to-date
 - One from the African Community Center
 - First Universalist Church and/or Oaks Community Church
 - Renter in NSE planning area
 - Mike Ramsey from the City is also working with youth at George Washington High School
 - Staff with Atlantis/ADAPT (potential)
- Outreach made to over 15 contacts/organizations, including representatives from the following, in addition to above:
 - Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
 - Mexican Cultural Center
 - Denver Islamic Society
 - Celebration Community Church
 - Jewish Family Services
 - Advocacy Denver
 - Ability Specialists, Inc.
 - Denver Disability Law
 - Colorado Cross Disability Coalition

Events held during Phase 2

- Meeting held at Root Policy Research offices (6740 E Colfax Avenue) with Afghan refugee families (16 total participants) to talk about their challenges related to housing, transportation, and other quality of life/neighborhood issues. Main takeaways include:
 - Housing: rent is too high, size and layout of kitchen is incompatible with preferences, lots of issues with shared washer/dryer, language barriers make it difficult to know everything that they're responsible for in lease and speak with landlord about issues.
 - Transportation: many are scared to use public transportation, bus transfers are too long which makes it impossible to rely on the bus or pursue different employment opportunities, bus is expensive for families (suggestion to provide an all-day ticket option instead of being forced to buy 2 tickets/day).
 - Quality of life/neighborhood: many parks don't have lighting at night, so they are more reluctant to use them. Reserving space, BBQs, etc. is a barrier for these families using the park – felt there were a lot of rules and regulations to use the facilities. Many participants would like to see more mosques built around the metro area (currently, only two are in the metro area – lots of travel for families).