

Project Tenant Power: Understanding Your Rights and Resources

Empowerment Alliance

Kimberly Amezcua, Riona Biery, Abraham De La Torre, Jeymi Guadalupe Gonzalez, & Helen Jiang

Project Purpose & Description

The workshop, Project Tenant Power: Understanding Your Rights and Resources, was created to address and decrease the number of families facing or at risk of facing homelessness in the City of Long Beach. The purpose of the workshop was to educate participants on tenant rights and build participants' confidence in navigating housing processes and resources on their own. Additionally, a resource guide created by the Empowerment Alliance was distributed to participants. The workshop was created by the Empowerment Alliance, a group of MSW students, in collaboration with Families Uniting Families' (FUF) Project Fatherhood, housing expert Lilly Piedra of LiBRE organization, and Brianna Auget, attorney from the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and took place on Thursday, March 27th from 6-8 pm via Zoom. Participants of the workshop included members of Project Fatherhood who regularly attend their Men In Relationships or Women In Relationships weekly support groups.

Social Problem & Focus Population

In the 90813-zip code Long Beach community, homelessness was a prevalent social problem observed. Homelessness is exacerbated by a lack of awareness of tenants' rights, available resources, and various other factors. Residents were not familiar with support resources to guide them through the process, nor did they know how to advocate for themselves as tenants.

Scope of Social Problem

- Community residents and service providers alike recognized homelessness as a significant issue within the 90813 community
- 90813 is an incredibly densely populated area within Long Beach with over 50,000 individuals living within 3.21 square miles (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022)
- The high cost of living, a perceived lack of resources, and a lack of familial/social support were factors provided by interviewees as impacting individuals experiencing homelessness in the community
- On the morning of January 25th, 2024, there were 3,376 individuals experiencing homelessness (City of Long Beach, 2024). Of the 3,376 individuals who were identified, 53% reported that this was their first time experiencing homelessness

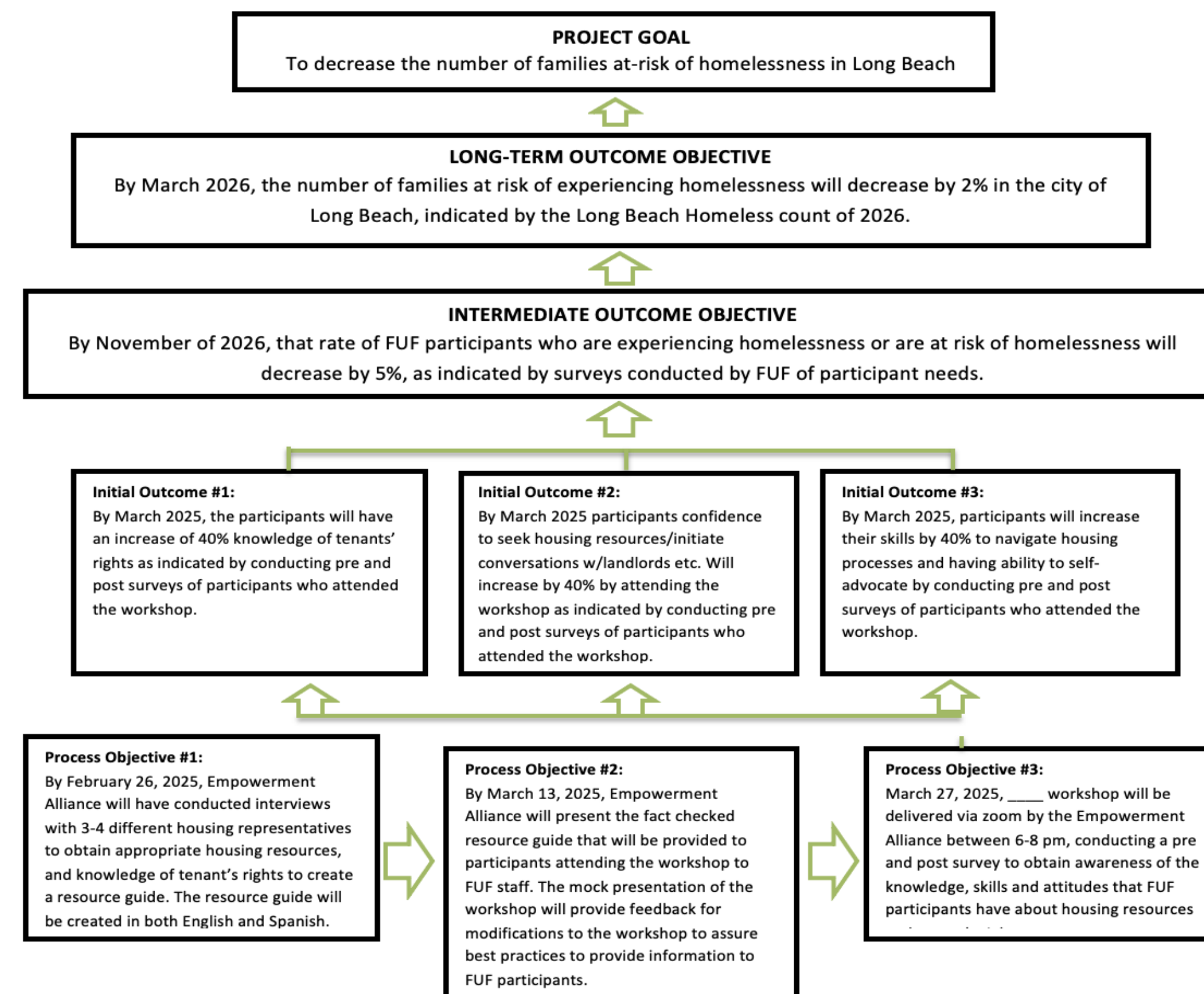
Alignment to Specialization

Project Fatherhood supports parents holistically and allows for growth in various aspects of their parenting journey and lives. Our project was designed to be a resource for the parents working with Project Fatherhood and in turn promote more positive outcomes for their families.

Community Partners

Name of Collaborator	Contributions
Families Uniting Families-Project Fatherhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connected Empowerment Alliance to LiBRE Confirmed attendees from preexisting weekly parenting groups hosted by Project Fatherhood Reviewed workshop material provided by the Empowerment Alliance and provided feedback Attended workshop to provide support
Lilly Piedra SHLA Lead Organizer lilly@wearelibre.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed workshop material provided by the Empowerment Alliance and provided feedback Provided expert housing information to participants the day of the workshop
Brianna Auget Supervising Attorney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided expert housing information to participants the day of the workshop

Project Objectives & Outcomes



Methods

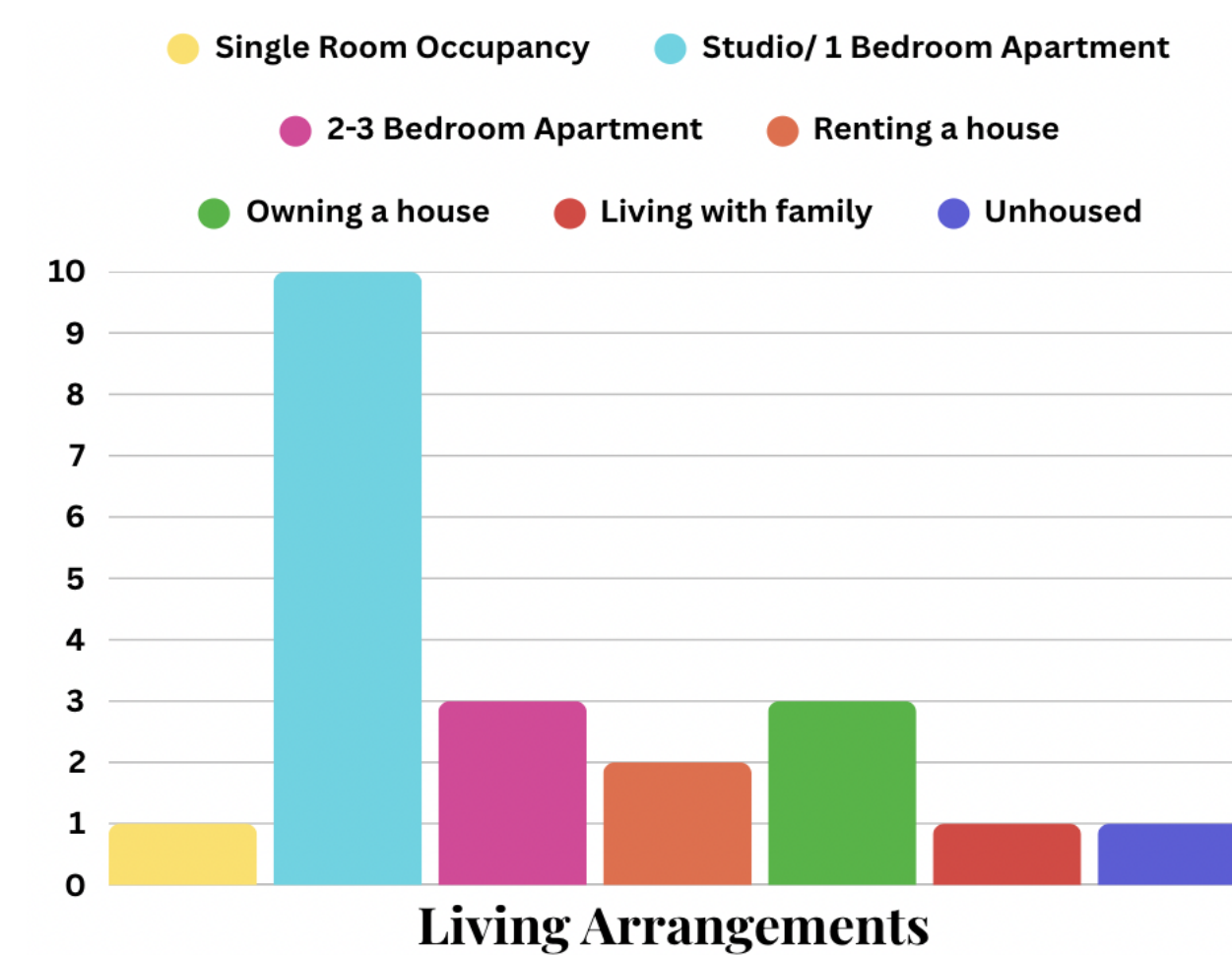
- The 22 adult participants of FUF Project Fatherhood groups were asked to complete a Pre- and Post- survey (Google Forms) to measure the effectiveness of the intervention
- The surveys utilized: Likert scale, true/false questions, multiple choice questions, six demographic questions, and one question for feedback
 - Qualitative data was also analyzed to explore shortcomings of the intervention to explore areas of improvement and participant needs for future implementation

Participant Characteristics

Table 1 Participant Characteristics (N=22)

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Age	22	21	47	36.75
Ethnicity	n	%		
Black or African American	2	9.5%		
Hispanic or Latine	12	51.7%		
Asian	2	9.5%		
White	3	14.3%		
Mixed	1	4.8%		
City of Residence	n	%		
Long Beach	7	33.3%		
Los Angeles	5	23.8%		
San Pedro	4	19%		
Hawthorne	1	4.8%		
Culver City	1	4.8%		
Torrance	1	4.8%		
Fullerton	1	4.8%		

Note: Two participants did not answer demographic questions.



Descriptive, Inferential, and/or Qualitative Results

Table 2: Post-Survey Response to Outcome Questions after Attending Workshop(N=22)

Results from attending the workshop	1 Not confident at all	2 Slightly Confident	3 Somewhat Confident	4 Moderately Confident	5 Very Confident
On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you rate your ability to locate tenant rights information?	0 n=0	5% n=1	10% n=2	45% n=9	40% n=8
On a scale 1-5, how confident do you feel in navigating the eviction process?	1 Not Skilled at all	2 Slightly Skilled	3 Somewhat Skilled	4 Moderately Skilled	5 Very Skilled
	0 n=0	5% n=2	30% n=6	35% n=7	30% n=6
On a scale of 1-5, how helpful was the information provided in the workshop and resource guide?	1 Not Helpful at all	2 Slightly Helpful	3 Somewhat Helpful	4 Moderately Helpful	5 Very Helpful
	0 n=0	0 n=0	25% n=5	25% n=5	50% n=10
On a scale 1-5, how likely are you to utilize the resource guide provided in the workshop?	1 Will not utilize	2 Not Likely to utilize it	3 I will consider utilizing it	4 Most likely to utilize it	5 Will utilize it
	5.3% n=1	0 n=0	21.1% n=4	31.6% n=6	42.1% n=8

Note: Two participants did not complete the post-survey, decreasing the overall sample size.

Table 3: Pre-Survey Responses before Attending Workshop (N=22)

Participant Response Before Workshop	1 Not confident at all	2 Slightly Confident	3 Somewhat Confident	4 Moderately Confident	5 Very Confident
On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel in navigating the eviction process?	27.3% n=6	13.6% n=3	22.7% n=5	31.8% n=7	4.5% n=1
On a scale 1-5, how confident do you feel in navigating the eviction process?	27.3 n=6	40.9% n=9	13.6% n=3	9.1% n=2	9.1% n=2

Analysis of Findings

Pre- and post- survey results reflected participants having more tenant rights and eviction knowledge after the workshop

- Participants reported confidence in navigating the eviction process and high likelihood of utilizing resource guide provided
- When asked what could be done to improve presentation, responses included, "Everything was great, thank you for all the information", "The presentation was excellent" and a participant verbally expressed wanting to see the Empowerment Alliance present once a year at FUF
- Findings show a need for accessible legal aid and housing resources

Limitations & Improvements

Limitations

- Participants were exclusively clients from FUF Project Fatherhood groups
- Small sample size (n=22) limits the validity of the workshop

Strategies

- Offer comprehensive workshops on tenant rights to a wider and more diverse range of populations in the public beyond FUF's immediate clients
- Update the contents of the curriculum and the resource packet to reflect current and accurate information

Recommendations & Implications

Practice

- Implication: There was a demonstrated need for an accessible and collective local housing resources packet in the local community
- Recommendation: Community-based organizations should work collaboratively and position themselves as intermediaries between tenants and the broader network of community resources to empower them with support

Policy

- Implication: The result of the workshop suggested a limited awareness of local tenant rights in the community
- Recommendation: Social services agencies and community-based agencies should advocate for policy initiatives that mandate tenant rights education and free or low-cost legal consultation as part of public service programs

Research

- Implication: The impact of the workshop reduces the homelessness rate in Long Beach
- Recommendation: Longitudinal research should be conducted to evaluate the sustained impact of the workshop and the usefulness of the resource packet over time

The Empowerment Alliance



Acknowledgements

The Empowerment Alliance would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our community partners, the Project Fatherhood team, Lilly, and Brianna. Your collaboration and support played a vital role in the successful implementation of this workshop. Thank you to Dr. Rashida Crutchfield for the continuous support and insightful feedback throughout this process.

Resources

Bureau, U. S. C. (2022). Explore census data. Explore Census Data. <https://data.census.gov/>
City of Long Beach (2024, May 28). 2024 homeless count. City of Long Beach. Retrieved October 18, 2024, from https://longbeach.gov/globalassets/city-news/media-library/documents/2024_homeless-count_final



Resource Guide
(English)



Resource Guide
(Spanish)



Poster Handout