

Human Services

Social Housing Teach-In: Empowering Community to Advocate for Social Housing & Build a Stronger Long Beach Community



Voces Vibrantes

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INTRODUCTION

Project Purpose & Description

The virtual workshop held via Zoom included a presentation and conversation on social housing and the impacts it has on community members. The purpose was to empower the 90813 Long Beach community by promoting awareness, advocacy, and engagement in social housing initiatives to prevent homelessness and expand access to affordable housing.

Social Problem & Focus Population

The 90813 community demonstrates a diverse population with the largest represented group being the Hispanic/Latinx community. In addition, poverty largely impacts the residents in East Long Beach with over a quarter of individuals and families experience poverty and have experienced childhood trauma which increases the likelihood of being unhoused. The target population for this teach-in were families who have students currently enrolled in K-12 to engage more of the school-aged population.

Scope of Social Problem

Community Stakeholders

- Stakeholders identified affordable housing as a top concern for community wellbeing and safety.
- Stakeholder interviews highlighted the community demand for multilingual, accessible, and culturally relevant education and resources to empower families.
- "Everywhere you go you see encampments. My hope is to see [unhoused] people have a chance" (male, Latinx, community stakeholder).

Secondary Data

- The residents in East Long Beach include 25.6% of individuals and families experiencing poverty.
- Individuals in Long Beach who have faced adverse childhood experiences are 34% more likely to become unhoused than those who have not.

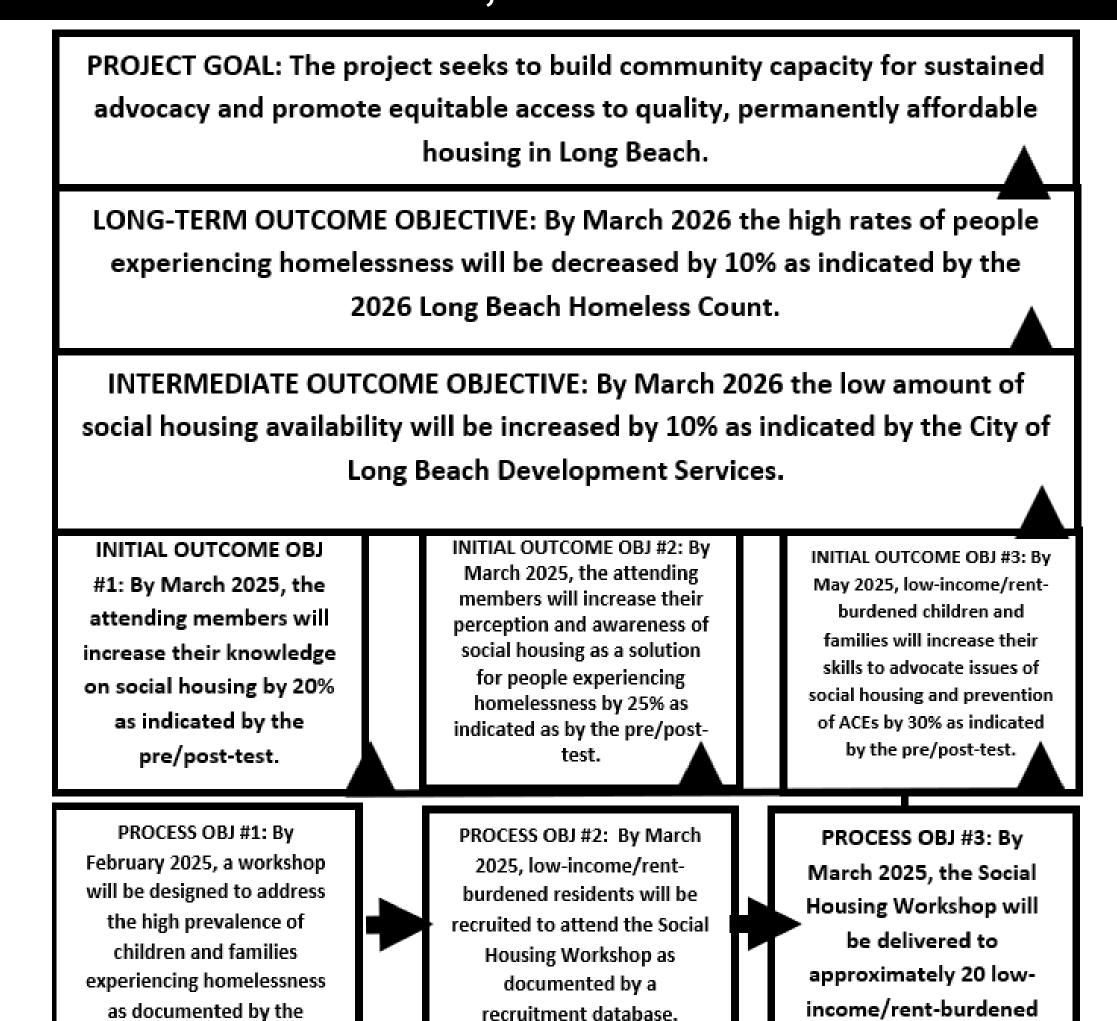
Alignment to Specialization

creation of the Social

Housing Workshop.

This project aligned with the well-being of children and families as the enhancement of protective factors that allow children and families to thrive were discussed and addressed through conversation and psychoeducation.

PROJECT OVERVIEW, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES



residents as indicated by

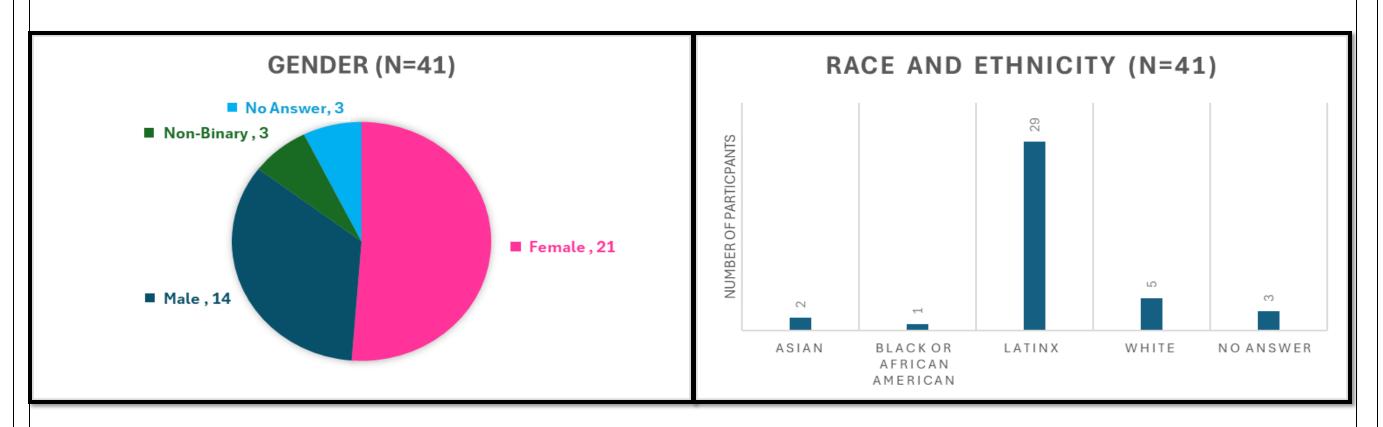
the sign-up sheet.

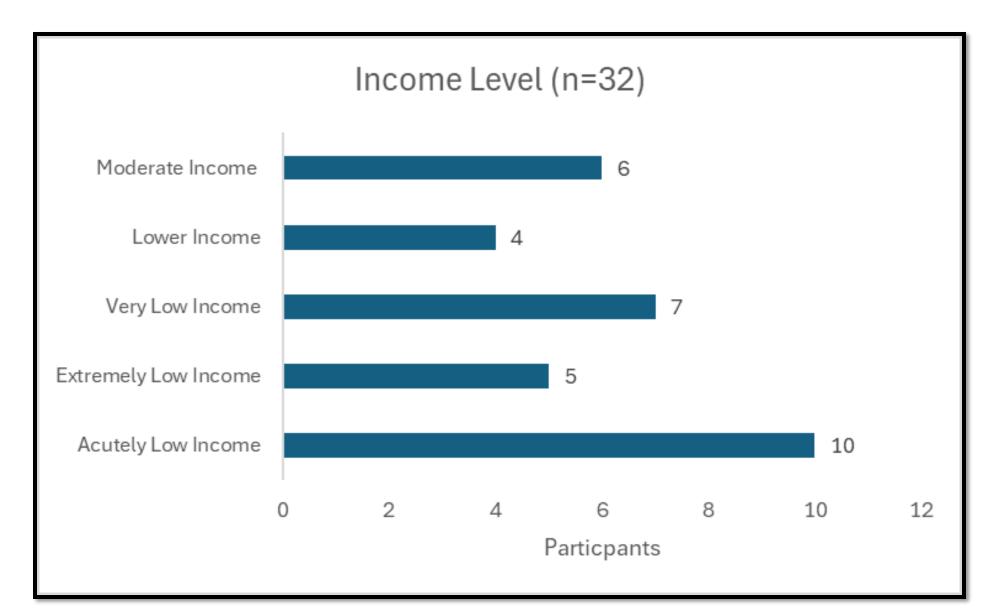
METHODS

The evaluation was descriptive and exploratory, aiming to assess participants' knowledge before and after the Social Housing Teach-In on topics such as social housing, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and strategies to support people experiencing homelessness. The evaluation employed quantitative methods using preand post-test surveys. Convenience sampling was employed to recruit 41 participants through community outreach efforts, including flyer distribution and local organizational networks. Majority of the participants identified as female and Latinx. Descriptive statistics and frequencies were utilized to analyze participants' demographics and answers to Likert-scale questions. The survey data was transferred to a spreadsheet to measure responses and identify trends in knowledge increase.

RESULTS

Participant Characteristics





Descriptive Results

Post Survey Responses (N =21)					
	No Knowledge	Some Knowledge	General Knowledge	Expert	
"I know what Social Housing is?	0	9% (N = 2)	43% (N = 9)	48% (N = 10)	
"I know what Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are?"	5% (N = 1)	0	62% (N =13)	33% (N =7)	
"I know strategies to people experiencing homelessness?"	0	15% (N =23)	33% (N =7)	52% (N=11)	

RESOURCES

City of Long Beach (2023). 2023 Homeless Point in Time Count Report. https://longbeach.gov/globalassets/homelessness/media-library/documents/2023-city-of-long-beach-homeless-point-in-time-count-report

U.S. Census Bureau, (2022). American Community Survey 5-year estimates: Income and Poverty. https://data.census.gov/profile/ZCTA5_90813?g=860XX00US90813

CONCLUSION

Analysis of Findings

After comparing the pre- and post-tests results, the workshop showed a significant difference between the participants' prior knowledge and their knowledge after. The results demonstrate that the workshop increased participants' knowledge of social housing, ACEs, and strategies of people experiencing homelessness.

Limitations & Improvements

Limitations

- One limitation of the evaluation process was the prompt dissemination of the
 post-test survey questions. Technical issues prevented immediate response
 which resulted in less engagement in the post-test survey compared to the pretest survey.
- The workshop had a limited scope because the community assessment focused mainly on the 90813 community, despite the intervention intending to reach the greater Long Beach City and other communities impacted by homelessness.

Improvements

- The workshop can be improved by creating sessions in-person to enhance accessibility, reduce potential technical issues, and create community connection and cohesion.
- The workshop can include supplemental guest speakers or collaborators to share existing social housing campaigns and establish a call to action for participants to join the community efforts.

Recommendations & Implications

Practice

- Called participants to share their knowledge and experiences with community members to encourage others to take action towards social housing efforts.
- Contributed to ongoing community engagement to meet the needs of Long Beach residents and mitigate homelessness.

Policy

 Advocated for local and federal policies that establish inclusive and sustainable housing opportunities for diverse populations.

Research

• Continue conducting research regarding the impacts of ACEs on homelessness and how the housing crisis impacts racial and economic justice.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Long Beach Forward

To create a healthy Long Beach with low-income communities of color by building community knowledge, leadership, and power.

Name of Collaborator	Contributions		
Marlene Montañez Associate Director Long Beach Forward Marlene@lbforward.org	 Provided trainings, materials, and guidance to develop and execute the workshop successfully. Contributed by linking existing housing coalitions within the Long Beach Forward organization to attend the workshop and build on their previous materials and research. 		
Nazir Abuyounes HFALBCLT Director Long Beach Residents Empowered (LiBRE) Nazir@wearelibre.org	 Assisted with providing psychoeducation on community land trusts and how the community organization LiBRE advocates and works towards developing community land trusts in the city of Long Beach. 		
Madeline Fletcher Retired Spanish Teacher Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) Haroletha@yahoo.com	 Facilitated the workshop in Spanish to create accessibility for Spanish speaking participants. 		

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