The Hows of Resident-Driven Community Empowerment towards Health Equity

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What Is the Purpose of this Study/Review?

- This study details community engagement, design, and implementation strategies for the Raices-Xidid-Roots (RXR) Academy. RXR provided classes on social determinants of health, non-profit management, and COVID-19 prevention in Spanish and Somali to residents of immigrant, asylee, and refugee backgrounds.

- The classes affirmed resident expertise while introducing new knowledge and skills so that residents could address their own needs.

What Is the Problem

- Available information on community engagement approaches often lack detail on how to facilitate resident learning and engagement.

- Additionally, available studies have not addressed root causes of inequity and oppression.

What Are the Findings

- Participant learning and engagement were supported by providing programming in participants' preferred language; cultural adaptation of programming; and community ownership.

- Participants consistently engaged in classes in environmental health; nutrition; basics of nonprofits; COVID-19 information; and mental wellness. Spanish and Somali-speaking residents met in their preferred language cohorts designed to build trust and facilitate development of projects to meet resident-identified needs.

Who Should Care Most?

- Community partnerships, funders including philanthropy, policymakers, and community-engaged academics

Recommendations for Action

- Supporting resident-driven community development projects requires facilitators to build relationships and trust, adapt programming to meet resident needs, and develop programming that addresses root causes of inequity and oppression.