

PROFILE of The Northerners

Goals:

- The overall goal is to create and enhance opportunities to work with four communities (Kurdish, Afghan, Sudanese and Somali) without duplicating efforts and overburdening leaders/resource people.
- The Northerner's can add other communities as needs arise.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase and improve relationships and collaborative efforts between social service agencies/organizations and with community at large.
- Enhance the awareness of existing resources and supports.
- Improve the capacity of agencies/organizations to serve Immigrant/Refugee families in a more culturally competent manner.
- Increase the accessibility to existing services and resources.
- Identify the unique needs and hopes of Immigrant and Refugee families.
- Explore and support development of new services where gaps exist.
- Provide opportunities for information sharing at monthly meetings.
- Identify community issues. Communicate concerns to appropriate decision makers. Support the community in advocacy efforts.

A Collaborative Community Mapping Planning Process

Joint Commitment:

- Feb '07: Subgroups of the North Central Community Mapping Committee and The North East Mapping And Action Team focusing on the needs of Immigrant and Refugee families join together.
- Terms of Reference created (last updated May 2008)

Community Profile:

- Maps from both the North Central Community Mapping Committee and The North East Mapping And Action Team are available for use.
- Oct 09 – Review of Maps (Immigrant & Refugee Category) – identified request for new Map based on “Country of Origin”, not just “Language Spoken”

Community Engagement/Action:

- June 07 - Hosted two public events ‘School is out-What to do!’ Information session.
- Jul 07 - Developed a ‘buddy system’ as a new way to remain connected with cultural community leaders that respect the time constraints of the leaders.
- Sept 07-A 2nd set of Multicultural workshops for human service providers.
- Sept 08 -2 Resource Fairs at NorQuest College
- Jan 08'- Consultation with community leaders re most important and effective actions to support; guest speakers – members learn about new initiatives & can provide feedback
- March 09- Planning for future Financial Literacy Fairs.
- Mar 09 – Guest Speaker – Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op – Under & Unemployment within Edmonton Ethno-cultural communities
- May 09 – Participated in Resource Fair at Londonderry Mall
- May 09 – Hosted Financial Literacy Resource Fair – Abbottsfield Recreation Centre
- Oct 09 – New action items – List parenting programs for newcomers, continue with Financial Resource Fairs, advocate for better Joint-Use Agreement terms
- Nov 09 – Financial Resource Fair – Duggan Community
- Dec 09 – Guest Speaker- EFCL – Pilot Soccer Program for Refugee Children
- Feb 10 – Guest Speaker – Edm Community Services – Multi-cultural Room approved for new Clareview Recreation Centre
- Mar 10- Joint-use Agreement Pilot Project approved for Immigrant groups needing space
- May 10 – EMNC – Board Development Workshop for Immigrants

Reflection:

- Jan 09 – Confirmation of the need and benefits of the group were discussed.
- Oct 09 – Confirmed the need to continue as a group and new action items created

Members & Organizations Represented

- AADAC (Alberta Health Services (AHS) – Addictions and Mental Health
- Action for Healthy Communities
- African Centre
- Be My Parents
- Boys & Girls Club
- Bredin Institute
- Candora Society
- Capital Health – Collective Kitchens
- Catholic Social Services
- Child and Family Services – East
- Child and Family Services –North East
- City of Edmonton Community Services
- City of Edmonton Office of Diversity
- Community Member
- Community Partnership Enhancement Fund (C.P.E.F.)
- Community Solutions to Gang Violence
- DECSA
- Dickinsfield Community Partnership
- Edmonton Catholic Schools – LINC Northeast
- Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association (ECALA)
- Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL)
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
- Edmonton Public Library – Abbottsfield
- Edmonton Public Library – Calder
- Edmonton Public Library - Highlands
- Edmonton Public Library – Londonderry
- Edmonton Public School Board
- Edmonton Public Library – Castle Downs
- Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council
- KARA Family Resource Centre
- M.A.P.S. Alberta Capital Region
- Mexican Cultural Society of Edmonton
- Multi Cultural Health Brokers
- NorQuest College
- Options Sexual Health
- Peace Talks
- RPDMH
- Somalian Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton
- Terra Association
- The Family Centre
- The Learning Centre Literacy Association
- YMCA
- Youth Emergency Shelter (YES)
- Volunteer Edmonton

Outcomes Achieved To Date

- Service providers have improved relationships with newcomer communities.
- Newcomers have increased knowledge of resources available.
- Financial Literacy Manual developed so other communities can host Financial Literacy Fairs

Date Profile Revised: March 25, 2010