

Buena Vida Choice Neighborhood Plan
Working Group Meeting 1 – Education and Job Development

May 24, 2017

Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville

Included below is a summary of potential strategies and initial project ideas described by participants at the first Working Group Meeting.

EDUCATION

Draft Strategy 1: Develop English language training programs

- Work with BISD and Brownsville to bring ESL courses. Fast track program to the neighborhood. It can be a good idea to help in the English language because it is an issue that has to be address. There are many people that do not know English and they can only read Spanish and they only speak Spanish, so I would like to implement programs or some type of jobs for them.
- Provide easily trainable program for learning the basics of English language.
- Build off community programs for people that do not know English, with this program they can learn English language, computer skills, meal preparation, etc.
- English language programs for all adults and children.
- Intensive ESL training.
- If we do not change language problem there will not be a lot of changes in this community.

Draft Strategy 2: Enhance and build off of the road to college program

- Help parents and kids see the vision of college by guiding kids through the process.
- College ready: parent workshop, partnership with colleges and universities to present and invite families.
- Early internship for at-risk students.
- Test prep for college admissions tests.
- Volunteer opportunities. Job shadowing. College visits. Mentoring and tutoring opportunities.
- College fair/ job fair.
- Partnership with BISD and read to college program.
- GED programs for students and parents.
- Computer skills closes for student's parents.
- Student conferences with session on college topics.
- Have local colleges or organizations bring local programs to community.
- Have college, programs, organization, career, college. Collaborate with students to inspire them to perused something big in the future.
- Hands-on programs with students i n summer to show them fruits of a career.

- Have more events for parents to teach them the needs, and the students benefits from college, free programs or scholarships opportunities.
- Career exploration and financial help.
- Create a series of workshops for students and families in Highschool as they navigate through college. This would include college Essay workshops, financial aid workshops (FAFSA) and how to pay for finance college, college fairs, etc.
- Help parents understand possibilities of college and education.
- Workshops on Financial information, financial aid, tutors for daughters and parents to prepare themselves for a higher education. Inform parents about careers from TSC and different college degrees. Develop adult education programs for education that prepare them to get a job. (computer skills programs).
- Describe the benefits of the students when they graduate from school and what resources will be available to them.

Draft Strategy 3: Strengthen and encourage utilization of after school programs

- Utilize the old boys and girls club for a more comprehensive after school study program.
- Education- Families accessibility to get to the program.
- Parents involvement in their children education specially if families not able to provide current I.D because of legal status.
- Create a main center at Buena Vida for the families to be aware of different programs.
- Outside communities provide programs open for them.
- Install a 24hr. Computer lab.
- Enrolling children in out of school programs.
- Create some type of group and girls club facility where they can interact with other kids. Have different work groups in this club. (sports, computer class, libraries, games, arts)
- Have a daycare for working parents.

Draft Strategy 4: Enhance parent's ability to teach their children

- To learn about the differences between public schools BISD and IDEA.
- Have health education & a clinic available.
- Offer training courses to parents to educate parents in the different areas they can help their children. This takes a huge role in empowering parents to take an active role in their children education. (language, literacy, college readiness).
- Promote literacy, and cultural reading during home.
- Parenting skills for parents for parents about discipline and structure.
- Drug counseling center, neighborhood watch education.
- Make GED more accessible, on site courses, partnerships with school district.
- Parental involvement clubs.
- Education empower parents, adult ESL classes and computer skills training programs.
- Parents engagement programs for families with academic socialization.

- Guide parents to make the decision of having an education and about careers options.
- Sequential parent training to help themselves and for exposer parents to help their children to attend to college in the future. Permanent library of computer lab. Implement information about associate degrees for parents.
- Include programs to educate the parents, financial education for parents, help parent to finish their elementary, middle school and GED with the programs of the Mexican government.

Draft Strategy 5: Create greater coordination between local partners

- Assessment of community resources to avoid reinventing programs and develop partnerships about education.
- Partner up with law enforcement to promote less crime.
- For trainings: partner up with BEDC, WFS, GBIC, PORT, etc. To bring opportunities of long-term training and certifications.
- Brownsville literacy center or BISD ACE programs for family.
- Brownsville literacy center for 3 and 4 years old and parents go to school together.
- We need to have an on-going assessment or area demographics relative to children. For example, training rates.
- Coordinate/ parents with BISD and or TSC (even TSTC) to offer training programs at Buena Vida for residents and family. Training should be in demand, occupations and result in industry recognized credentials.
- Expand educational programs to implement tutoring programs in different subjects like English and Math.
- Bring books to the community through a library.

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JOB DEVELOPMENT

Draft Strategy 1: Improving career-ready training

- Career ready for individuals with training, certificate, degree in area of demand.
- Create programs or partnership to deliver necessary skills to achieve outcomes.
- Adults to complete their GED.
- Provide adults with classes to improve computer skills.
- TSC to provide low cost classes to adults.
- One-on-one connections for individuals looking for employment.
- Creating individualization development plans based off a job readiness rubric.
- Computer skills training for free
- Workshop for application, mock interview (teach skills), professional dress closet for residents that are interviewing for a job.
- GED classes, CTE training, English classes, citizenship classes for citizenship.
- English classes to be offered to residents like computer (basic classes) communication skills.
- GED programs for those without a diploma job postings.
- Have internships for young adults.
- Make sure which groups from Brownsville have barriers to learn and give them the opportunity to learn English and computer trainings everything for free. Even workforce can take this task. Develop some type of facility for night classes to learn these types of skills.
- Give opportunities to help resume and work skills. For example, requirements that are required when they apply for a job. Clinic to provide health awareness and medical health. Bring Jobs to them providing business space like plaza commercial and training center.
- Adults school's opportunities for education district based on opportunities literary programs, English programs, educational programs, etc.
- Computer programs, free labs, language help, tutors, grants to pay for that.
- Increase entrepreneurship knowledge, provide small/self-employed strategies to manage employment opportunities.
- Education to improve skills, trainings about computers, and careers.
- Implement a comprehensive ESL and GED to prepare people for work. Desire outcome for job.
- Education and careers for adults, and helping people every day with education.

- Creating a pathway for ESL that include computer programs, job trainings, certificates. Creating awareness programs bring more programs to Brownsville. Create legal counseling to obtain legal status.
- Self-employment could be good for families that do not have legal status.
- We need more support for senior/elder residents: access to healthcare and good housing.
- Improve government services.
- Provide support to students that have immigrant parents who leave school at early age to support their parents because they don't have access to adequate jobs.
- Some kind of program that offers free daycare for parents that would like to enroll or are enrolled in English classes; some parents don't take these classes because they don't have who can take care of their children. The children are not in school age or they are not eligible for daycare because their parents don't have a job.

Draft Strategy 2: Improve access and visibility of potential jobs

- Transportation routes until midnight and weekends.
- organize job fairs in the neighborhood.
- Working with city to get more businesses to have more opportunities to residents from Buena Vida.
- Asking local business owners to consider Buena Vida candidates to operate in some position.
- Job board postings possibly digital serve for resident to check.
- Job fair.
- Resources for residents at the choice headquarters.
- Create a brochure, DSA, to increase skills and help them.
- Bring quarterly community resources partners for an on-site fair or all day-event. From free screening to info above homeownership, workforce, GED, etc. Write a yellow page style but nicely designed a book, directory with information about all of these community resources. (Bilingual Book) in order to know that if they lack certain skill or something they can research in that book in order to obtain some assist for them.
- Legal Status: provide legal services for free of charge to asylum seeker in south Texas. Maybe they might be willing to expand.