

Neighborhood Center and School-Age Child and Youth Development Funding Process Community Engagement Results

The Neighborhood Center and School-Age Child and Youth Development funding processes involved multiple methods of community engagement between November 2018 and April 2019. Feedback provided information on what programs and resources residents think should be at neighborhood centers as well as the vision for child and youth programming. In addition to the community engagement process, staff also sought ongoing feedback from and worked in partnership with, the City funded neighborhood centers, and built on the work of the Madison Out-of-School Time Initiative (MOST).

Method 1- Interactive Community Poll: Community Development Division (CDD) staff went to 25 events around the City, polling over 1,000 community members on the programs and services that matter most to them and the community at neighborhood centers. CDD staff prioritized holding the poll for both youth and adults at geographically diverse locations, reaching individuals and families with low-income and people of color at community events, food pantries, youth groups, and events for service providers. The poll was well received by the community.

Method 2- Online Poll: CDD staff sent out a survey including questions related to neighborhood centers. Over 200 community members voted for the programs and services that matter most to them and the community at neighborhood centers.

Method 3- Community and Stakeholder Meetings and Presentations: CDD staff held 10 presentations and facilitated discussions to get feedback on the specific details of the proposed neighborhood center plan and school-age child and youth programming from stakeholders and the community. Although the feedback gathered at meetings was useful, many meetings were sparsely attended with 1 to 18 attendees per event totaling 64 individuals. CDD staff are evaluating this process to consider how to most effectively gather this type of in-depth feedback from the community.

Results: In the interactive and online polls, each programming and service choice was selected by at least 30% of respondents. This indicates the importance of providing services and programming for all ages at neighborhood centers. Programming for children and youth as well as access to food received the highest votes. The online poll results were similar to the interactive poll although they showed higher interest in adult programming and information and referral services.

The results from the presentations and facilitated discussions indicated that community members want neighborhood centers to be focal points serving a wide variety of ages, have clear facility use policies, be open on evenings and weekends when possible, and prioritize community ownership over programs,

activities, and spaces. Feedback on child and youth programming centered around the importance of youth voice and ownership of programs and activities; increased evening hours for middle and high school age youth, especially on Friday and Saturday night; program activities based on the interest of the participants; and the availability of both unstructured and structured program times.

How the Results are Incorporated:

The table below identifies how the community input is incorporated into documents guiding the Neighborhood Center and Child and Youth funding processes:

Neighborhood Center Benchmarks	Child and Youth Policy Paper	Incorporated Results
X		City funded neighborhood centers will have child and youth programming as well as programming that serves a variety of age groups and reflect the needs and interests of the community.
X		Facility use policies need to be clear and rooms need to be available at little or no cost. Centers must have facility use available until at least 7 pm two days per week and several weekends per year.
X	X	Youth will have a voice in the child and youth programs at City funded neighborhood centers. Programs are encouraged to have both structured and unstructured time.
	X	The City is seeking proposals for summer and weekend evening programming for Middle and High School age youth.
X		City funded neighborhood centers must have either a food pantry in-house or a close relationship with a food pantry in the area.
X	X	City funded neighborhood centers and school-age child and youth programs must have a plan to connect residents and participants with needed resources and services.
X		City funded neighborhood center boards will be diverse and match the community served. Residents will be able to provide input into planning for center functions through multiple events per year.