

In September we launched our first focus group and survey session as part of the People's Plan of Stanislaus County (aka, El Plan Del Pueblo del Condado de Stanislaus). Engagement in this activity consisted of:

- 82 survey takers
 - 56 in English
 - 26 in Spanish
- 12 focus group participants
 - 12 in Spanish
 - 12 in English

In our five focus areas, focus group participants from West Modesto shared their concerns as well as suggestions to respond to improve quality of life in the Stanislaus County region:

Civic Engagement and Community Building

- Concerns: Lack of engagement from the county, insufficient information about resources, safety issues (strangers, suspicious activity), and lack of resources for the homeless and unsheltered residents
- Suggestions: More community outreach, better communication about events and resources, improved safety measures, services for homeless like those provided in neighboring counties

Economic and Social Health

- Concerns: High cost of living, debt, inadequate healthcare access and affordability, mental health issues, and discrimination in employment and housing
- Suggestions: Workshops on Medi-Cal and other public assistance programs, support for mental health and addiction recovery, combatting discrimination in hiring and housing practices, affordable housing options

Transportation Options and Equity

- Concerns: Cost of transportation, safety on buses, lack of shelter from the elements, unreliable bus schedules
- Suggestions: Make public transportation more affordable and accessible, improve bus cleanliness and safety, provide better shelter options at bus stops

Housing Experiences and Development

- Concerns: Rising rents, lack of affordable housing options, discrimination against renters with vouchers, the poor quality of rental housing, and a lack of resources for renters
- Suggestions: Rent control measures, incentives for landlords to accept vouchers, improved housing inspections and enforcement, resources for renters to address issues with landlords, and explore alternative housing options like tiny homes in addition to others

Climate Resilience

- Concerns: Poor drainage, lack of cooling stations during heat waves, insufficient water resources

- Suggestions: Improve drainage systems, provide cooling stations in vulnerable areas, invest in water conservation programs, better communication between government and community on climate issues.