

In November, thanks to assistance from family resource center staff we were in conversation with community members from the Airport Community neighborhood in Modesto. With this engagement, we gathered more insights and learned from community members how to better address their needs. Specifically we:

- Surveyed: 14 people (in Spanish)
- Engaged in a focus group discussion: 15 people (in Spanish)

From the focus group conversations with residents, we learned the following regarding the community's concerns in the **Airport Neighborhood**:

- Civic Engagement and Community Building
 - Many participants expressed frustration with feeling unheard by government officials and a lack of transparency in decision-making processes. There was also emphasis on the importance of community involvement and consistent advocacy for change.
 - Concerns about illegal dumping, air pollution from the Gallo facility, and inadequate public transportation were raised. Participants discussed the need for community resources and services, including information about tenant rights and assistance with obtaining bus passes.
 - Suggestions: Organize a petition campaign about community concerns
- Economic and Social Health
 - High unemployment, lack of job opportunities, and barriers for undocumented workers were major concerns. Participants expressed dissatisfaction with CVOC and Workforce programs due to lengthy processes and inflexible schedules.
 - Suggestions: Provide information about resources and services through flyers, utility bills, or community meetings; and connect community members with educational programs and support services
- Transportation and Equity
 - Public bus delays, dangerous walking conditions, and lack of bus shelters were highlighted. Concerns about speeding, illegal dumping, and lack of police presence were also raised. Participants suggested creating a park in the empty lot to discourage unsafe activities.
 - Suggestions: Advocate for improved public transportation, infrastructure, and safety measures
- Housing Experiences and Development
 - High rent, unfair rent increases, and poor living conditions in unregistered rentals were major concerns. Participants discussed the need for rent control, tenant rights education, and information about resources like CRLA.
 - Suggestions: Invite CRLA (California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation) for a presentation on tenant's rights; and connect community members with educational programs and support services
- Climate Resilience
 - Extreme heat and cold weather were reported to negatively impact health, especially for vulnerable populations. Participants suggested planting trees, reducing pesticide use, and regulating school locations near farms

- Suggestions: Connect community members with educational programs and support services

Overall, the meeting highlighted the need for improved communication, transparency, and access to resources within the community. By addressing these issues and empowering residents through information and advocacy, the community can work together to create positive change.