



Social Inclusion Working Group

Meeting Minutes

November 15th, 2021

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Zoom

Attendance

Nadia Umadat -TSLIP, Shakira Quraishi- Culturelink, Alisha Griffith-East York/Don Valley Cluster, Seung-Woo Ham -For You Telecare Family Service, Jani Trindade- West Neighbourhood House, Anita Fortuno- Access Alliance Community Health, Angelica Hernandez- Salvation Army

Agenda

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Welcome & Introductions
3. Grassroots Support Update
4. Strategic Plan- Update on Strategic Directions
 - Selection of Projects
5. Agency and Program Updates-
6. Closing

1. Land Acknowledgement

Working group member kindly read Land Acknowledgement

2. Welcome and introductions

Each member was welcomed by LIP staff, members were thanked for attending the meeting. Members introduced themselves

3. Grassroots Support Update

- Recapped to group that to date the network has engaged with 15 grassroots groups to connect with for information and resources
- Will continue to connect groups with TSLIP partner organizations who can offer relevant support as needs arise
- As the TSLIP is shifting from a 1 year transitional plan to a new strategic plan, we will begin wrapping up but it can be incorporated in the new plan if there is interest.
- As it has been awhile since several of the group members present had been in attendance they preferred to wait for a full report from project lead.

Specific ask:

- *Human Foundation*
- Founder is using his own money to deliver furniture and was surprised by how much of a demand there was for furniture and household items.
- The initiative is needed as newcomers face many barriers to accessing furniture ie. language skills and financial resources
- How can the initiative be connected to space and potentially with more than one space
- Will add to newsletter once we get in touch with Human Foundation

4. Strategic Planning Update

- TSLIP has been able to identify strategic directions, purposely kept at high level to allow for flexibility. Three directions selected are policy and research, newcomer success and supporting the sector.
- Social Inclusion Working Group will fall under the second direction of supporting newcomer success, however there is room for work in all three directions
- Group examined project list from previous meeting as well as added a few new ideas

Brainstorming Ideas

- Grassroots network ongoing?
- Newcomer spaces for dialogue, networking, entrepreneurship (virtual or in-person)
- Possibly a series of events, or courses, series of videos – think of access, Wi-Fi-scale using model from Samara Institute- pop up democracy , Scale Without Borders, Not- for profit network for resources
- Food handling and other virtual opportunities, more professional development on tech tools, mailchimp etc. linkedin learning for newcomers or grassroots groups

- Ensure non-status participation in professional development, advocacy, and awareness that partners have specific funding but what can we do to make spaces more accessible for both tech and professional skills?
- Youth-increased access to education what does that look like?
- Mental health first aid for service providers, training is expensive but needed- how can we remove barriers?
- **Winter clothing resources list**
- Tools for learning- devices, computer literacy, RTC refurbished computers as a pathway to explore
- Device loan programs- what could that look like?
- **Translated user guides for email, and other useful portals ie. CRA, IRCC**
- Create innovative ways to support adult English language learning

- Group agreed to wait for more detailed update on grassroots network and to begin uptake on winter clothing resource and translated user guides.

5. Program or Agency Updates

- Community Food security virtual session series in Parma Court/ O'Connor area through the Don Valley/East York Cluster will begin on Fri Nov 19-open to community, three part series. First session is an introduction to community members and would like agencies to come in on second call.
- Seniors and youth inclusion programs are being organized in this neighbourhood and organizers are hoping they will be able to have in- person sessions at community center without vaccine passports as their community has one of the lowest vaccination uptakes
- Group also has an interest in a seed library and are looking for ways to make it sustainable and there is reluctance to have an agency involved, rather keep it within the community cluster.
- West Neighbourhood House now has a policy for mandatory vaccination requiring proof for staff, volunteers and students. No policies yet have been finalized for clients but it is being discussed. Agency is afraid of creating barriers to service for vulnerable populations
- They have had essential services in -person throughout the entire pandemic, but groups have remained virtual. Some of their spaces are not adaptable to public health requirements and have remained closed. Hoping for more in-person services in the coming months.
- Access Alliance does not have a vaccination policy for clients but they complete a screening for each client who enters the building. They plan to be back to full in-person services by January 2022

6. Closing

- Next meeting will take place on Mon. December 13th at 2pm