



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

*White Center Community Development Association in partnership with Trusted Advocates, Village of Hope, YES! Foundation, and Partners in Employment came together to share our experiences working with specific racial and ethnic communities in White Center. We have identified the following as the Best Practices of community engagement.*

## LISTEN TO COMMUNITY

- Recognizing the wealth of resources and wisdom within the community and the value of community partnerships
- Creating opportunities and time to involve community in all steps of the decision-making process; ensuring all voices are heard and responding to community needs
- Ensuring families and community members understand how to be involved
- Valuing and respecting people of diverse identities and backgrounds and nurturing inclusive environments (addressing language and cultural barriers, being culturally relevant and thoughtful about place, time, childcare, food, etc.)

## BUILD & FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS

- Fostering existing relationships and reaching out to the community to build new relationships
- Building positive relationships with young adults based on trust and empathy
- Being transparent in sharing of information, capacities and limitations, and roles and responsibilities
- Having good intentions and meaningful collaborations with reciprocity, mutual benefits, and sharing of ownership
- Identifying and seeking to provide ways for institutions in our neighborhood (i.e. schools) to meaningfully engage with community

## DEVELOP LEADERSHIP

- Providing opportunities to support leaders and leadership training
- Creating intentional community engagement experiences and spaces for leaders to learn and grow
- Developing a strong youth leadership pipeline that provides the youth of White Center opportunities

## UNDO INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

- Applying an analysis on institutional power and continuously checking for how internalized racial oppression is reflected
- Understanding of one's role as a gatekeeper and maintaining accountability
- Having opportunities for healing
- Staying focused on racism and how it functions and how it can be undone
- Reflecting on and being aware of our history