



Blueprint Strategy Session Data Summary

The following strategies under each topic area were generated at the June 13th (2007) Blueprint Strategy Session. Under each category, groups of about 10 people (average) reviewed visions of a Duluth without poverty that were generated at the second Blueprint session that took place in May (2007), and developed a maximum of 5 key strategies under their self-selected topic area.

After key strategies were formulated by the groups, about 57 community members that participated in the session offered their individual input by selecting, and reporting back, the top three strategies that they were in support of.

The following categories and the strategies under each category are listed in order according to the priorities set by the community members that participated in the strategy session.

Employment

1. Promote and provide a living wage; identify, recognize and market employers who pay living wages and provide benefits. Encourage employers to act as a model/incentive for others.
2. Offer job training targeted to job openings and upcoming (baby boom) openings and develop training placement, career laddering and retention.
3. Create and encourage matched savings accounts – FAIM, IDAs – for employees to build assets.
4. Provide government (and other) incentives to expand and attract jobs: green industry, global, diverse, micro-enterprise, and local small businesses.
5. Dialogue / collaborate with business to implement all strategies

Transportation

1. Provide more buses running and later hours / 24-7. Adding more routes / transfer areas / routes to businesses that are open late into the night. Have expansion of businesses / housing according to bus routes
2. Promote the value to public transit. Add more benches; “Take the Bus” Day; get everyone in all classes, etc. to use system – will break the ideas that it’s negative.
3. Increase transfer time to two hours.
4. Promote walking / bike riding. Create more bike lanes.

Housing

1. Increase housing inventory with tax and policy incentives (house sharing, site-based vouchers, and section 8 policy enforcement, rent to own).
2. Develop a community center of investment and ownership (i.e. block clubs, community activities, and meetings with law enforcement)
3. Encourage landlord and tenant accountability (funding to enforce codes in a timely fashion, small claims/legal assistance for landlord tenant resolution, renter education).
4. Identify people who are at risk/or need assistance with accessing, and remaining in, housing (match with a mentor, advocate, coach, 18 month commitment)

Basic Human Services

1. Simplify access to all services. Breakdown class barriers and barriers to services.
 - a. Have one key contact person; stop confusion, barriers, time, family conference, access to advocates. Barriers to services: transportation, money, available hours, time it takes to fill out paper work, language, race/culture (identify, centralize, and simplify)
2. Offer circles of Support – breaking down class barriers – combining resources (ie. Faith based, professional, etc.)
3. Provide resources within/for families facing programs, that threaten the family stability.
4. Create a sense of community. Facilitate more communication between agencies, clients, neighbors, politicians, etc. Change “not in my neighborhood” attitudes, give community-building trainings.

Education

1. Develop education and mentoring opportunities for students of color and poverty to help them enter and complete college and serve as teachers in k-12 and higher education.
2. Finance access to early childhood care and education transportation, location...

3. Create a coalition of higher education, institutions to address community education (central location for scholarships and resources)
4. Actively recruit faculty and students of color to create a more welcoming and flexible environment.
5. Minimize the student teacher ratio in k-12. One way to do this is to bring teacher aides into junior high and high school.

Criminal Justice

1. Offer broad circles of support (jobs, housing, services, mentoring, education, emotional, spiritual)
2. Value diversity (training system wide and increase diversity of staff, law enforcement racial profiling training increase diversity on department diversity training for ethnic and spiritual needs)
3. Enhance preventative programming/ prevention services (juvenile – enhance prevention and treatment, support for adults and juveniles aftercare, aftercare for adults once out)
4. Enhance the court system (juveniles – treat differently than adults, provide rehabilitation – rather than criminalizing, support drug court and similar model for family court)

Health

1. Provide more neighborhood clinics – conversation with primary health care providers
2. Offer orientations about healthcare options – How to access care and health education when approved for medical assistance.
3. Fund raise monies for health care co-pays and premiums (emergency health care fund)

Childcare and Dependent Care

1. Advocate for fully funding the Child Care Assistance Program (Federal Grants – State Match) 500 Families in St. Louis County on waiting list (460 in the program)
2. Advocate for Universal Pre-School (National and State level) develop a demonstration neighborhood in Duluth – Universal Pre-School for residents
3. Improve parenting education and support networks (Expand ECFE, positive role models, parent mentoring programs, doula care from birth, social support networks for families)

4. Encourage childcare cooperatives, volunteers mentorship, care programs, and cooperatives between families that needs care.
 - a. Engage in a grassroots / community-based approach. Develop university / community partnerships , work with the Americorps. Provide accessible (on site or close to business centers) Childcare.