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Using Housing as a Platform for Service: Building on Resident Input and Engagement

Leiha Edmonds, Somala Diby, and Micaela Lipman
Moderated by Elsa Falkenburger
August 2, 2017

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Housing Opportunity and Services Together (HOST) and Using Data Walks in Research

Housing Opportunities and Services Together (HOST) Demonstration

HOST uses housing as a platform to provide comprehensive services to vulnerable residents in public housing and mixed income developments

HOST aims to improve the health and well-being of adults, as well as improving academic outcomes and reducing risky behavior for youth

Three Original HOST Sites

Chicago, Illinois	**Portland, Oregon**	**Washington, DC**
Altgeld Gardens	New Columbia Humboldt Gardens	Benning Terrace

Original HOST Goals

- Test feasibility of comprehensive service models for public and mixed income communities
- Demonstrate that intensive, dual-generation service approaches can improve life chances for public housing families
- Test whether serving most vulnerable residents promotes community stability

HOST
HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICES TOGETHER

Common Elements Across Sites

- Coordination, collaboration, and leveraging
- Strength-based coaching approach
- Clinical mental health, workforce development, youth services
- Two-generation approach
- Intensive case management (1:30 case loads)

Feedback Loop for Real-Time Learning

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Engaging Community: Data Walks

What is a Data Walk?

Data Walk:

- Interactive, facilitated, visual presentation of data

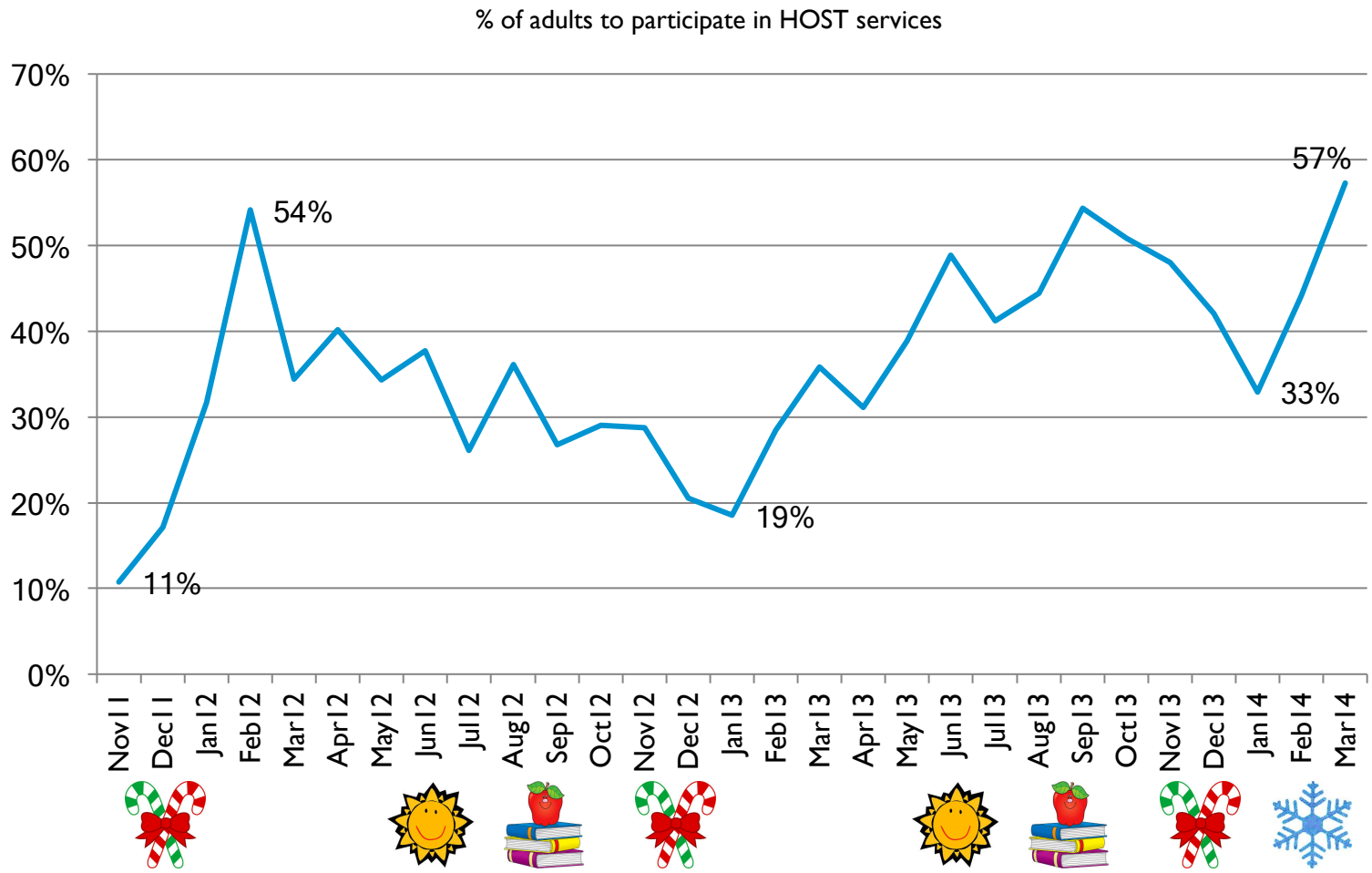
Focus Groups:

- Facilitated discussion to capture reactions to data

Station 4
Discussion Question(s):

HOST Youth Participation in Services

HOST Adult Participation in Services is Inconsistent, and Not All Adults Participate



Residents Respond:

"[My case manager] even helped my [child] because she got him to see the psychologist. He went to [one therapist] first, but he thought he knew nothing about his problems. I had to honor that, I talked to [my case manager] to see maybe he would respond to [another therapist]. And he does. She comes to pick him up, because he doesn't want to walk," – HOST Adult

Using quantitative and qualitative data to enrich research findings and create impact

Inform PHA Practice and Policy:

- Staff interviews identified gaps in both data collection and programming for children and youth

- PHA plans to make intentional changes to its programming—target early childhood

Inform New Research

- Focus groups reveal strategic role that teens play in navigating food insecurity
- Urban Institute partners with Feeding America to understand teen food insecurity and design unique interventions

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Strengthening research through community engagement

Lessons from an adolescent pregnancy prevention program

Somala Diby

August 2, 2017

What is PASS?

A place-based, multi-generational intervention to

Promote **A**dolescent **S**exual health and **S**afety

at the individual, environmental, and behavioral levels.

KNOWLEDGE, EMPOWERMENT, CHOICE, ACCESS

What is PASS?

2012 – 2015: Designed and piloted in Benning Terrace DCHA community (NIH)

2016 – 2020: 5-year formative evaluation (Family and Youth Services Bureau, ACF, HHS)

Developed in response to DCHA and resident concerns for DCHA youth, young girls in particular:

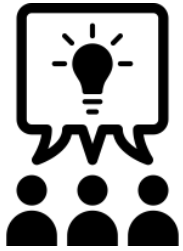
- Sexual violence and coercion
- Teen pregnancy
- HIV and STIs

What is PASS?

THREE CURRICULA	Sisters Rising Brothers Rising Parents Matter
TARGETS YOUTH AND ADULTS	Youth ages 13 – 19 Adult residents, parents, and care-givers
RESIDENTS DELIVER CONTENT	2-3 trusted male and female adults from the community are co-facilitators

Unlike most adolescent pregnancy prevention programs, PASS…

Meets teens where they live, not just in school



Engages community members as co-researchers

Embeds sexual health in a broader wellness framework

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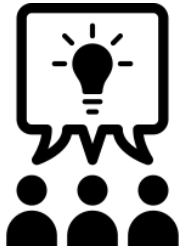

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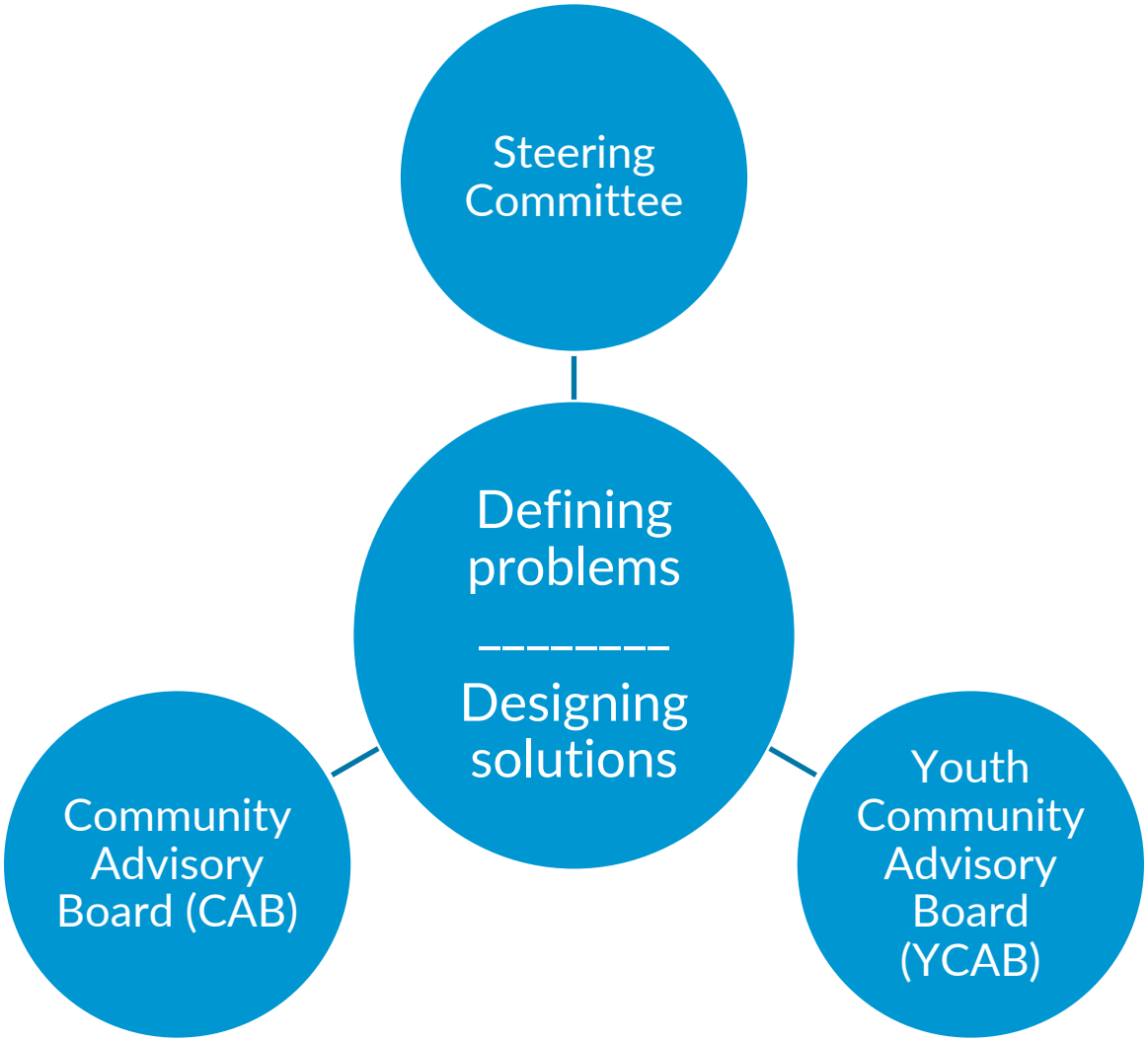
Value-add of community engagement

Rarely do research “subjects” have the opportunity to collaborate in research

- Traditional research profession values academic expertise
- Professional researchers control research and knowledge

Those most impacted tend to offer the most ingenious ideas to remedy their challenges

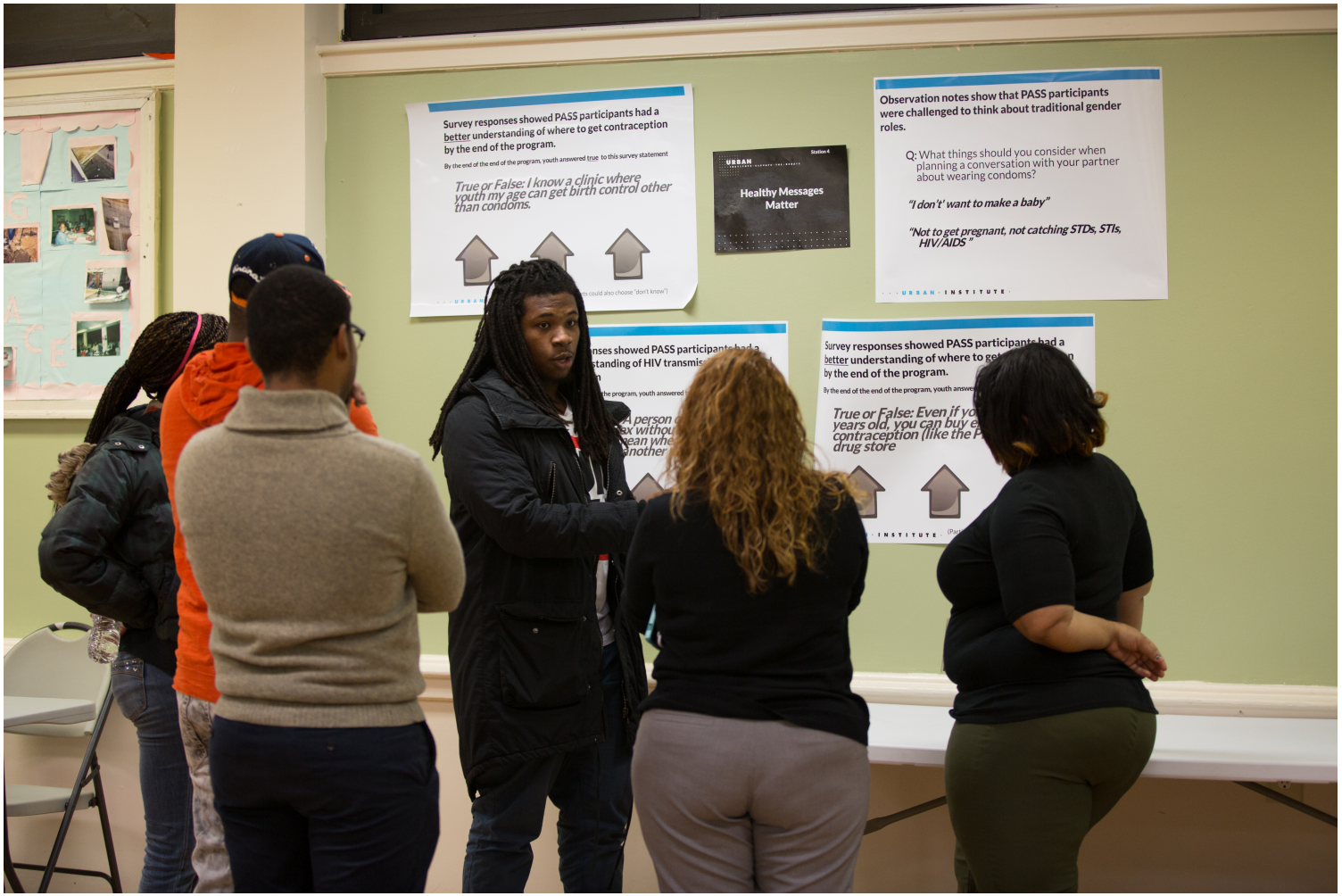
Conceptualizing the research



Instrument Design and Data collection

- Community input refined the survey language and streamlined the instrument
- Trust, transparency, and buy-in led to higher response rates on surveys

Data Analysis



A stronger intervention overall

- Fortified trust
- Building community capacity to self-organize and design solutions

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Integrating CBPR into your project

Building relationships take time and managing expectations is not easy

- Significant time and resource investment
- Showing up to community events beyond the scope of PASS

But the effort is worth the outcomes

"It felt like research in the beginning, but it felt like family at the end, because we all came together. It wasn't nothing [we] couldn't talk about and that's how it is with family. There shouldn't be nothing you shouldn't be able to talk about. I don't care how big it is, how small it is. That's just how it is."
(Benning Terrace resident and PASS co-facilitator)

Assessing your projects

- ✓ Consider if your entire project or just certain research tasks would benefit from a community-based approach.
- ✓ Discuss potential partnership with CBO or community members – identify common areas of interest, goals, and resources needed.
- ✓ Write up summary of methodology for research task(s) and roles of partnering entities.
- ✓ Incorporate new methodology into work plan and request IRB approval

Initiating new CBPR projects

- ✓ Define the community boundaries, groups, members, and leaders.
- ✓ Meet the community (Email introductions, phone calls, in-person meetings if possible).
- ✓ Jointly draft a concept paper describing research questions, goals, and the roles of the various partners
- ✓ Apply for funding

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Portland Teen Food Insecurity Research

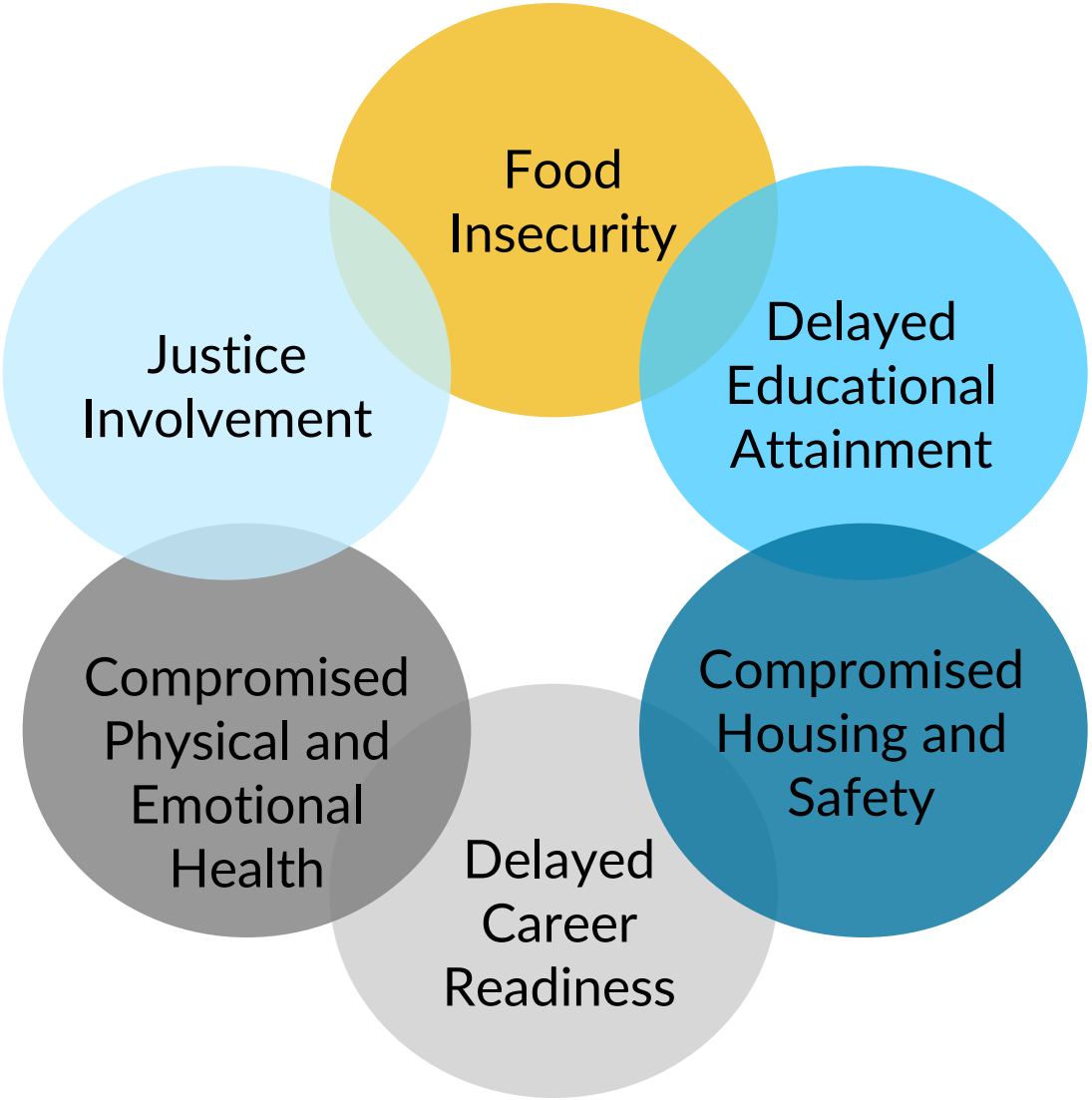
August 2nd, 2017

Micaela Lipman, Urban Institute

Why Food Insecurity?

One of the members of our community advisory board told us that families in her community ran low on food at the end of the month and said, **“And you know what the girls do when that happens…,”** implying that girls were engaging in transactional sex to get food.

Intersectionality of food insecurity



Research questions

1. How do teens experience food insecurity in their families and communities?
2. What coping strategies, including risky behavior, do they use to survive?
3. What are barriers to teen participation in the current food assistance programs, and how could teens be better engaged?

- Familiarity and experience with food insecurity is widespread
- Teens are actively involved in acquiring and managing household food resources
- Teens fear stigma and actively hide need
- Teens engage in a variety of coping strategies
- Teen seek work, both formal and informal and feel responsibility for younger siblings
- Some also manage hunger with risky behaviors

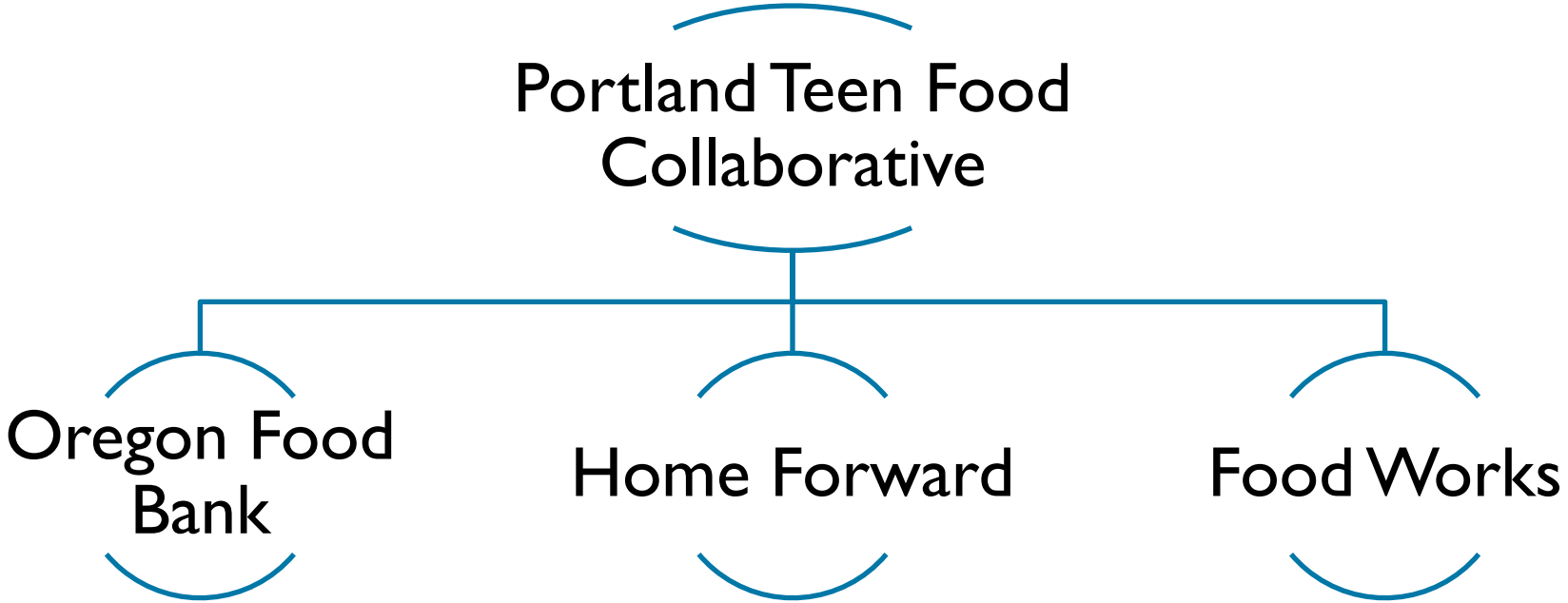
To view the full reports:

Impossible Choices: Teens and Food Insecurity in America

- http://www.urban.org/research/publication/impossible-choices-teens-and-food-insecurity-america

Bringing Teens to the Table: A Focus on Food Insecurity in America

- http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/teen-hunger-research/bringing-teens-to-the-table.pdf


Portland Teen Food Collaborative
Oregon Food Bank
Home Forward
Food Works

YCAB

Challenges

- Stigma of charitable food options
- Teens view current food options as low quality
- Affordable food may be unhealthy
- Transportation is a barrier
- Cooking fresh food is a challenge
- Some food resources exclude teens

Solutions

- •Co-locate food distributions with services
- Teen-led food distributions would attract teens
- Do more teen-specific work
- Take into account teens' families
- Cultural competency matters

YEP
Harvest
Share
Community
Engagement

Youth Empowerment Program

Harvest Share

Community Engagement

http://apps.urban.org/features/food-insecurity/

Challenges

- Cultural competency
- Reaching those most affected by food insecurity
- Staff turnover
- Establishing roles among partner organizations

Looking forward

- Co-location within housing authorities, food banks, as well as schools
- Integrating wraparound mental health services to address risky behavior
- Addressing geographic diversity
- Working with younger teens
- Creating a more established peer mentoring structure

Thank you!

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Discussion and Q&A