

## Stakeholder Forum Input About Target Groups for Oregon Prosperity Design Lab

During October of 2014, the Oregon Prosperity Agenda and the Oregon Business Council (OBC) in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, United Way of Columbia-Willamette, and The Ford Family Foundation, facilitated eight Stakeholder Forums throughout Oregon. Combined, over 360 participated in the Forums. The forums asked for input in two areas. One was input into policy concepts being developed by the OBC Poverty Task Force, with input summarized in a separate document. The second was input for the Oregon Prosperity Design Lab, with input summarized below.

The five target groups listed below represent about 60% of Oregonians in poverty. At the Forums, participants were asked to read a case study representing the target group and review target group demographic data. Then, in small groups they were asked to discuss then record answers to six questions about what is working or not working to help achieve prosperity for their assigned group. This document summarizes common themes (similar responses from two or more workgroups) for the six questions.

*Notes:* We heard feedback about the lack of focus on the fact that poverty disproportionately impacts poverty communities of color, and the need for an “equity lens” when working on strategies to address prosperity. We also recognize that by providing a case study, some of the questions may have been answered in response to the case study, rather than considering the diverse demographic characteristics of the target groups.

### **Target Groups representing about 60% of Oregonians in Poverty:**

1. Teens aged 13-18, living in households in poverty
2. Single- or two-parent households (with children) in poverty with at least one parent who is a first-generation immigrant
3. Households in poverty with at least one disabled adult aged 18-64
4. Single- or two-parent households in poverty with children aged 0-4
5. People coming out of the corrections systems (parole, probation, juvenile detention or prison) living in households in poverty

### **1. Teens aged 13-18, living in households in poverty**

#### *Common Themes*

What's Working: Individual Development Account (IDA) program, education programs (college prep or community college); SUN Schools

What's not working: Lack of vocational/tech programs; employment connections; one-size fits all approach

Strengths: Networked; resourceful; creative

Barriers: Affordable housing; employment; self-defeating/perceptions

Outcomes: Higher average income; family wage jobs; advocacy/political representation

Urban/Rural: More community involvement in rural; less access to educational and job opportunities

Notes: Differentiate data within racial groups. Need to connect local industries (ag, tech) to schools.

## **2. Single- or two-parent households (with children) in poverty with at least one parent who is a first-generation immigrant**

### *Common Themes*

What's Working: Head Start; subsidized housing; IDAs

What's not working: Documentation; language/cultural issues; lack of financial planning

Strengths: Strong family and community connections; strong work ethic and determination; commitment to education

Barriers: Language; distrust of government – especially with undocumented; racism/stereotypes

Outcomes: Stable housing and employment; educational attainment

Urban/Rural: More housing options in urban areas (although more expensive); fewer opportunities and resources in rural areas

Notes: There is an important distinction to note with this population – documented or undocumented.

## **3. Households in poverty with at least one disabled adult aged 18-64**

### *Common Themes*

What's Working: Subsidies including TANF, SNAP, housing; family support

What's not working: Non-subsidized permanent housing; childcare

Strengths: Family support; resilient; motivated

Barriers: Transportation; the time needed to process paperwork to receive benefits

Outcomes: Stability and predictability with income and housing

Urban/Rural: Rural has less transportation and access to resources

Notes: Vocational Rehab is an important agency and should be engaged. Assistance for home-based businesses. Debt and medical bills are a barrier.

## **4. Single- or two-parent households in poverty with children aged 0-4**

### *Common Themes*

What's Working: Education/Vocational Training; Section 8/Housing Assistance

What's not working: Loss of benefits; Safety net not coordinated; childcare

Strengths: Resiliency; resourceful/leverage resources; perseverance

Barriers: Communication skills/soft skills; low wages/lack of family wage jobs

Outcomes: Getting off public assistance; stable wage/higher wage

Urban/Rural: Rural – transportation issues; less access to services

Notes: Needs for the children include full-day pre-school, and new educational systems for age 0-4.

## **5. People coming out of the corrections systems (parole, probation, juvenile detention or prison) living in households in poverty**

### *Common Themes*

What's Working: Central City Concern (CCC); mentoring; alcohol and drug treatment; jobs in prison/skills training; housing

What's not working: Difficulty securing employment; prior conviction box on applications; not enough longer term support; substance abuse

Strengths: Education opportunities in prison; resourceful/determined

Barriers: Recurring substance abuse; lack of housing and support systems

Outcomes: Stable living wage employment and housing; re-integration into the community; low recidivism; drug/alcohol recovery

Urban/Rural: Rural areas lack services and transportation; more opportunities in urban areas; potentially more discrimination of criminal records in rural communities

Notes: Racial justice issues; overrepresentation in correction system. No distinction between minor felony vs. major felony.