

Alameda County Government Services & Operations Climate Action Plan

Targeted Community Engagement Efforts Summary | September 16 to October 1, 2021

Overview

For the development of the next Alameda County Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations, the County solicited feedback from communities likely to be most affected by climate change, such as older adults, unhoused residents, people with limited English proficiency, residents with pre-existing health conditions, and uninsured and underinsured individuals. This process was done through collaboration with local programs.

The door-to-door survey done by My Eden Voice is summarized separately.

Engagement Snapshot

Organization or Program	Organization or Program Description	Participants	Format
Healthcare for the Homeless	Healthcare for the Homeless is a health-centered program within the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, providing services, information, and tools to people experiencing homelessness across the County.	10 participants from 4 cities (Alameda, Berkeley, Fremont, Oakland), who are experiencing homelessness, or have experienced homelessness in the past	Listening session (Sept. 16, 2 hours)
La Clínica de la Raza	La Clínica provides multi-lingual, accessible full-scope health care services in the East Bay, no matter a patient's income level or insurance status.	7 participants, mostly uninsured, non-English speaking, undocumented residents	Focus group (in Spanish) (Oct. 1, 2 hours)
My Eden Voice	My Eden Voice is a coalition led by residents of the Eden area that focuses on and advocates for the needs of residents - including tenant protection, parks and open spaces, and economic recovery - in unincorporated urban areas in the County.	13 participants	Listening session during monthly general meeting (in English and Spanish) (Sept. 25, 75 minutes)
Roots Community Health Center	Roots Community Health Center is a mission-driven, Oakland-based organization that focuses on uplifting those impacted by systemic inequities and poverty through a health lens.	7 participants, mostly clients of Roots Community Health Center living in East Oakland who have personally or through their family experienced respiratory and other health issues	Focus group (Sept. 29, 2 hours)

Key Takeaways

- These communities are highly exposed to the impacts of climate change and are highly motivated to act for the well-being of their families, communities, and health.
- Wildfires were the most concerning climate impact for participants, followed by smoky air and energy/power shutoffs.
- Health, housing, and safety were important issues for participants.
- Participants shared that the County needs to address and work on the trust issue communities have with government agencies including the County. Participants would like to see more compassionate and responsive County social services and for the County to maintain the promises and commitments made to communities.
- Participants would like to see improved access to County services and more information and education for the public, including in multiple languages.
- Participants wanted the County to provide emergency preparedness information, education, mental health services, and as many tools and resources as possible. They would like to see the County go beyond providing information, as information has been provided in the past, and prioritize empowering residents.