* Date 04-15-2015 Location Community Action Partnership, 719 S Main St., Dayton, OH 45403
* Name: Focus Group: Clients and Staff of the Community Action Partnership
* **Recap of session:**
* Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area is a nonprofit Community Action Agency committed to eliminating poverty and promoting self-sufficiency by providing various programs and services for individuals and families. This group consisted of 12 females and 1 male. The group has a diverse racial mix and 58% of the participants were over the age of 66 years. Incomes levels of all participants but one were below$31,650.

**Top 3 areas of Discrimination**

**Most Common:**

75%identified Race/Color as #1

33% identified Race/Color as #2

25% identified Ageas #3

* **Noteworthy stats:**
* 17 % identified Ethnicity, Disability, and Familial status as #2.
* 25 % also identified Gender Identity/Expression and Familial Status as #3.
* **I know someone who was discriminated against.**
* 10 stated yes.
* 2 stated no.
* **Disability:**

**6** stated a person with disabilities resides in their home.

* **Current housing is accessible.**
* 7 stated yes.
* 4 stated no
* **Opinion/thoughts about how willing landlords will help people with disabilities.**
* Very willing – 25%
* Hesitant – 75%
* Unwilling – 0%
* **Have you ever asked for a reasonable accommodation or modification?**

1stated yes

11stated no

Tell us about your neighborhood.   
Does it or doesn’t it have:

* + Good Schools?

Thirteen individuals felt that having good schools in the area was important when choosing where to live.

* + Groceries and shopping amenities that are plentiful and close?

Nine individuals stated that having shopping convenient is important when considering where to live.

* + Health Care – is it close or far away?

Thirteen people said having easy access to healthcare in the area was important.

* + Community Center?

Thirteen individuals felt having community centers for kids and seniors was important. Especially for when kids are home during the summer or who needed a place to go on weekends or evenings to stay out of the streets.

* + **Affordable** housing opportunities?

Eight individuals commented that there was a need for more affordable housing in and around the Montgomery County area.

* + Easy **transportation** to everywhere in the county?

Thirteen individuals commented that having access to transportation was important. Two

people discussed the lack of seating and shelter at many of the bus stops in Montgomery

County, and the fact that during the winter these bus stops were even more difficult to

access. One person mentioned how the bus stops by the Fairfield mall are nowhere near

the apartments out there, so it made accessing the nearby housing for a disabled person

with mobility issues impossible.

* + Is there neighborhood **blight** or problems?

Thirteen individuals felt that there were Blight Problems that had a negative impact on their community. One person said that there were properties around Salem Avenue in Dayton that had been abandoned and are being broken into by homeless people looking for shelter. One person was concerned the vacant and abandoned properties would attract drug dealers and users, and increase crime in their neighborhoods.

One person mentioned properties on Otterbein off Cornel Avenue that was owned by an attorney/landlord who would not maintain the properties. The same person also said that the community center ran out of some of the apartments (Dayton Urban Ministries) on Otterbein was a fraud, and this person believed the director was using the center to funnel money into her own pockets.

Two people mentioned that the Grafton Hill neighborhood was not what it used to be and stated that Mr. Grafton is surely rolling over in his grave at what the neighborhood has become, with the properties falling into disrepair and owners and residents not maintaining the properties.

Two people discussed how the Regency Apartments were once nice, then mentioned about a senior citizen getting robbed at that location last year and someone’s car getting broken into during Oktoberfest.

One person stated that to really judge an area you need to see how the alleys are kept and what it’s like on the weekend.

* + Is it accessible to **people with disabilities**

Four individuals stated we needed more accessible housing. One person mentioned there were no curb cuts near the Walmart on Hoke Road, making it difficult for those with mobility impairments.

* + What else is important?
* No Comment.
* Let’s Talk About Your Housing:
  + Rental or Ownership?

Six are renters, seven are home owners.

* + Did you meet any obstacles in your search for housing?

A woman went to an apartment complex in Brookville to rent an apartment, told they don’t

have anything available so not handing out applications. Goes next door to senior property

with same company, and told they have frequent turnovers and directed to go back to

apartment office and get an application. Then she was told there is nothing coming open but

to put in application. Ultimately she was told not to be eligible because of Subsidy on rural

development different with HUD.

* + Have you experienced any drawbacks since you moved in?

One women said that she lives in the Brookville area, but does not feel welcome in the area

stores or shopping in Brookville because she is African American and she has gotten stares

and comments made to her and her kids. She said she now shops in other areas where she

feels comfortable.

* + Do you believe housing discrimination is more common when it comes to renting or buying a home?

Four people felt you were more likely to face discrimination when renting a home, and three

people felt you were more likely to face housing discrimination when purchasing a home.

Four people felt that people were steered to particular neighborhoods base on their race.

◦ How are your taxes, insurance rates, and other housing financial obligations?

The home owners mentioned that taxes were not high in Dayton.

Some Questions for Discussion:

* + Have YOU ever been steered away from a place because of your race, gender, disability or because of having children, etc.?

One person mentioned red-lining and mentioned that the company that help her tax money in escrow missed one of her payments and didn’t notify her. Her insurance did not pay the full claim on her fire insurance when she needed it as a result.

* + Were you ever told you were not welcome in a neighborhood or town?

One African American woman mentioned that she had taken her kids trick-or-treating in the Oakwood area because she had heard they passed out really nice treats to the kids. She said that one of the home owners told by one home owner in Oakwood that “they” (residents) didn’t want blacks trick-or-treating in their neighborhood and she needed to leave.

* + Did you ever believe you were not welcome somewhere, even though nothing was ever said?
* One women said that although she lived in the Brookville area, she does not feel welcome in
* the area stores or shopping in Brookville because she is African American. and
  + Do you know anyone that has filed a housing complaint?

No comments.

* + Do immigrants have problems with discrimination in your neighborhood or town?

One person said she was sure that immigrants were facing discrimination, but worried that

they would not know where to turn to for help or even know that they could get help in

those situations because of not knowing the cultural differences.

* + What groups of people are discriminated against in this County?

Race, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, people with Criminal Records, the homeless face discrimination the most.

* + Adjourn -