



Food as a Public Work


Thursday, November 17, 2022
1-2pm Eastern

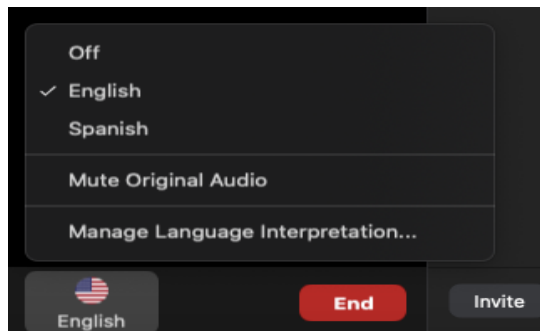
2022 NOW Webinar Series

Layers of Change in Action: Unpacking the NOW Playbook

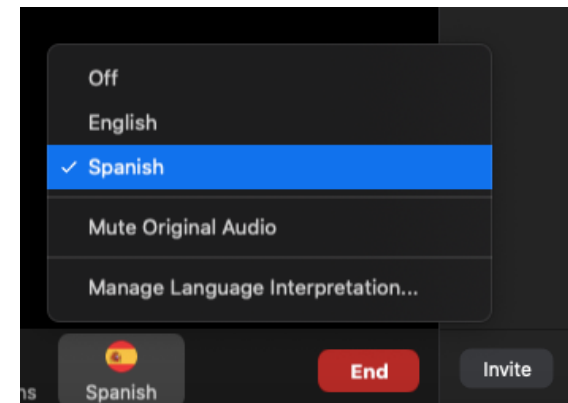


Language Justice: Zoom Webinar Interpretación/ Interpretation

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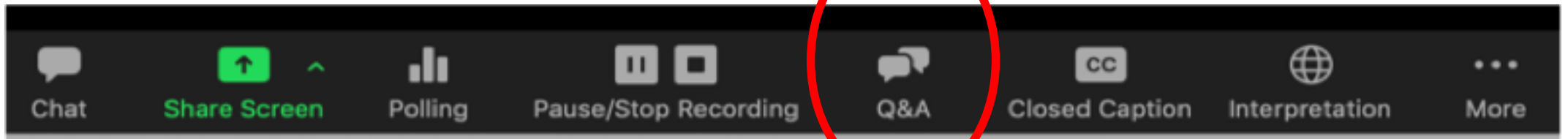


Housekeeping

- Spanish Language Access
 - Community Language Cooperative (CLC) based in Denver, CO
- Slides and recording will be posted on the NOW Forum (<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/Webinar>)
- Submit questions on dashboard
- Use the chat box for comments

Q&A

- Submit your questions by clicking on the Q&A icon at the bottom of your screen





Session Outline

- Welcome & Overview
- About Vital Village
- *Workshop: Food as a Public Work*
 - *Pantaleon Florez III, Owner and Operator of Maseualkualli Farms*
- Discussion and Audience Q&A
- Closing

About Vital Village Networks

Vital Village Networks is a national collective of diverse change-makers and organizations committed to pioneering sustainable approaches to transforming child, family, and community wellbeing

Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing (NOW) is a national initiative powered by Vital Village Networks

NOW exists to achieve social transformation and racial justice by partnering with individuals, organizations, institutions, and coalitions across the country to build their capacity to equitably share power with communities that have faced ongoing racial oppression and marginalization.



Guiding Principles

BELONG - Centered in dignity and equity



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graph TD; A[BELONG - Centered in dignity and equity] --> B[LEARN - Those closest to the challenge are closest to the solution]; B --> C[ENGAGE - Design with, not for, users]; C --> D[TRANSFORM - Identify and frame challenges to address collectively];
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LEARN - Those closest to the challenge
are closest to the solution

ENGAGE - Design with, not for, users

TRANSFORM - Identify and frame
challenges to address collectively

NOW Innovation Forum - Sign up to engage with a network of community leaders



<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/>

NOW Playbook: Transformative Community Capacity to Advance Equity



<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/now-playbook>

Levers of Community Change

Levers of Community Change

Community and systems transformation start from the ground up. The strengths, assets, and wisdom of those most impacted by structural inequities are the cornerstone of sustainable solutions that ultimately create healthy, thriving communities of opportunity for all children.

As community networks, grassroots coalitions, and parent-led campaigns mobilize to address inequities in early care and education — and to expand access to health care, resources, and opportunities to achieve educational and economic wellbeing — wisdom from both research and practice are revealing important common threads that help facilitate successful and impactful initiatives.

Levers of Community Change

In 2016, NOW convened a diverse, cross-sector group including parents, caregivers, advocates, educators, practitioners, and other stakeholders, with an ambitious goal: to co-design a robust community capacity-building infrastructure to support community efforts to advance equity and achieve optimal child and family wellbeing by transforming and aligning systems of care and education in early childhood, using a trauma-informed and equity-focused lens.

Drawing upon the lessons learned from Vital Village Networks' history of community engagement and

empowerment in Boston, this strategic planning process yielded a theory of action that established the foundation for the NOW initiative and its framework for building local community capacity. **Five key levers of community change** emerged from the NOW theory of action as critical domains of action and collaboration that can drive equitable and inclusive systems alignment and transformation — moving those most impacted by inequity from the margins to the center. These levers of community change foster equitable leadership through strategies that uphold and honor dignity.

Learn More about NOW strategic planning process on the NOW Innovation Forum
<https://www.networkofcareofcolor.org/research>

FIVE KEY LEVERS OF COMMUNITY CHANGE



FIVE KEY LEVERS OF COMMUNITY CHANGE

Lever 2
Implement Shared
Governance

Lever 4
Tell Data
Stories

Lever 1
Center Racial
Equity and
Healing

Lever 3
Engage
Communities
Authentically and
with Dignity

Lever 5
Plan for
Sustainability

Lever 1: Center Racial Equity and Healing

Stories in Action: Centering Racial Equity and Healing

Berkeley Early Care and Education (BEE) Collective (Berkeley County, South Carolina). BEE Collective was developed to address discriminatory exclusion and expulsion rates in early learning setting disproportionately affecting Black boys, in their community and across the state. The Collective focuses on the impact of implicit racial bias in the early education system and works with community leaders to develop solutions. They use community and public data to raise attention to this equity issue and have developed a multi-pronged approach to address it at the community and state level. Locally, they offer mental health, inclusion, and curriculum support to centers serving students of color, who are disproportionately impacted by expulsion. They also engage in state-level advocacy to better support parents and teachers and invest in training to reduce implicit racial bias in the maternal health and education system and to build capacity for equitable treatment of children and families.

Essex County Council for Young

Children (ECCVC; New York, NY). The ECCVC health community is building early education and care programs that are responsive to the needs and experiences and trauma. Using a collaborative approach, the community has published the New York State Early Childhood Care and Education Framework, which provides a vision for the future of early care and education in the state, including a focus on social-emotional learning, and aligns around this vision.



Lever 1: Center Racial Equity and Healing

Village Strategies

Name racism as a root cause of health, economic, and social inequities. Understanding and recognizing the levels of racism (internal, interpersonal, and institutional) and learning about the historical forces that have driven its current form is crucial to identify strategies to dismantle it. Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones's "A Gardener's Tale" provides a framework for understanding and recognizing various levels of racism and its impact on health and wellbeing.[2] A first step to addressing structural racism is to acknowledge that it exists, and that, as a system, it perpetuates and reinforces other levels of racism.

Commit to eliminating racism and achieve it as a central — not secondary — part of your work. Naming, acknowledging, and learning about racism is an important step, but it doesn't stop there. Dismantling racism should be a central goal in all early childhood systems, from health and education system alignment efforts, and



Lever 1: Center Racial Equity and Healing

Tools

Racial Equity Action Plans: A How-to Manual (Government Alliance on Race and Equity). Racial equity action plans can put a theory of change into action to drive institutional and structural change and achieve a collective vision of racial equity. This manual provides guidance for local governments to develop their own racial equity action plans after a period of research and information gathering, including advice and tools for conducting this research.

A Practitioner's Guide for Advancing Health Equity (Center for Disease Control and Prevention). This comprehensive tool provides lessons learned and innovative ideas on how to maximize the effects of policy, systems, and environmental improvement strategies — all with the goal of reducing health disparities and advancing health equity.

The Working Principles for Health Justice & Racial Equity Organizational Self-Assessment (The Praxis Project). This tool supports organizations or programs to reflect on the ways in which they embody health justice and racial equity in practice, and identify opportunities for growth and improvement. Included are five working principles, and what each principle encompasses.

Early Childhood System Performance Assessment Toolkit: Advancing Parent Engagement & Equity Items (Center for the Study of Social Policy: CSSP). This set of tools helps groups measure various aspects of how well your local early childhood system is working, including key equity metrics.

Resources

Manifesto for Race Equity & Parent Leadership in Early Childhood Systems (Center for the Study of Social Policy). A group of 40 parent leaders and agency staff from nine Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (ECLINC) communities, with support from CSSP staff and consultants, came together to create this Manifesto for Race Equity and Parent Leadership in Early Childhood.

Equity Manifesto (PolicyLink). The Equity Manifesto has been inspired by the work, commitments, insights, and resolve of the many partners with whom PolicyLink has shared the journey of advancing racial and economic equity.

Featured Speaker



Pantaleon Florez III

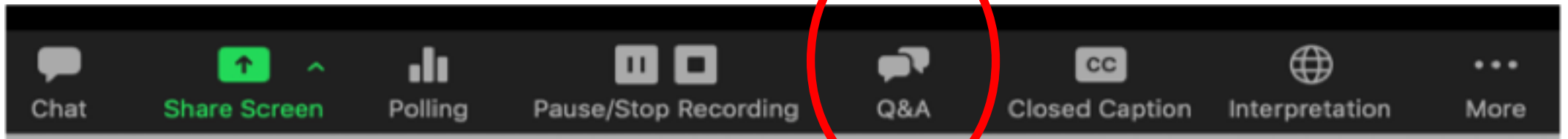
Owner and Operator, Maseualkualli Farms

Q & A

Question and
Answer

Q&A

- Submit your questions by clicking on the Q&A icon at the bottom of your screen



Thank You



Pantaleon Florez III

Owner and Operator, Maseualkualli Farms

Webinar Reflective Action Guide



NOW 2022 Webinar Series

INSTRUCTIONS: Please download this document and take a few minutes to write some initial responses to the following questions

| | |
|--|--|
| What resonated with you most from today's webinar? | |
| Which lever of change are you feeling compelled to focus attention on in your work? | |
| How are you thinking about children, families, and communities in your work differently? | |
| What 2-3 action steps might you take over the next two months to better uplift and honor the dignity of children, families, and community? | |



Thank You!

<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/>

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Follow us on Twitter:

@NOW_WellChild

@Vital_Village



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