

PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES AND CO-CREATE SOLUTIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Co-designing with people who have lived experience is essential to develop sustainable solutions that work for the community. Researchers, service providers, and government officials should all listen to and include families in creating solutions.

The following is an example of research that centered voices of families.

Case Study Key Findings: What we Learned from Immigrant and Refugee Families



Parents want to learn new parenting skills while maintaining their culture and traditions

"I think organizations need to start embracing other cultures, helping kids understanding the importance of keeping their culture, and also that when service providers are working with families to make sure the kids are not too lenient on their culture. Make sure kids are following what the parents are saying." Amina



Parents need support from teachers and schools to increase their engagement with their children's education

"The school system is also difficult because once they start going to school, we do not have any idea of how to do homework. I know how to read, I know, you know, how to write, I know how to speak; even for me the system of doing homework is so difficult. I have no idea. If they [service providers] can provide employees who help us with homework that would be appreciated." Lila



Parents want access to information about how to navigate systems and access affordable and quality housing, transportation, and childcare

"For us Latinos, we like to be part of the conversation. We like to sit down and discuss things available and things we need. We need to be heard. And we always need a friendly hand. The more support we receive and the more we are able to benefit from it, we are going to pass it on to our children and they are going to make the difference" Priscila

Tips to Co-designing with Families

- Collaborate and partner with community leaders and trusted organizations
- Give yourself time to develop relationships and get to know the communities
- Make sure the people you involve represent diversity from the community
- Use appropriate tools to communicate effectively
- Value and compensate community members' time and expertise as much as you do professionals

To learn more go to ocd.pitt.edu/immigrants-refugees