**Identify Community Connections**

**Purpose**

This activity will help the core team intentionally ensure that everyone who needs to be present in the ERB process will be included. This activity may also potentially identify representation or knowledge gaps in your core team. You may choose to invite others to join your core team based on these gaps.

**What You’ll Need**

**Who:** Core team​

**Where:** in-person or virtually

**How long will it take:** 2-hour meeting + optional 2nd meeting after additional research

**Materials:** any already existing community engagement materials you’ve developed such as a stakeholder map or network analysis

**How to do this**

1. Gather with your core team members. Begin by brainstorming about all the different people (groups, organizations, key individuals) in your community. Document all suggestions on sticky notes or a virtual whiteboard. The point of brainstorming is to come out with anything that comes to mind, with the goal of abundance, so think broadly. ​
2. Continue the brainstorming by considering the following questions and calling out the names that come to mind: ​
   * Who or from what organizations do people go to get information? Who do they trust? Who do they get support from for basic needs? ​
   * Who or to what organizations do people go for resources or support after a disaster? ​
   * Who provides a sense of community and are key connection points to members of your community? ​
3. After roughly 15 minutes of brainstorming, stop and discuss each suggestion. As a team, determine which of the suggestions to include in the table below, with a goal of engaging all the relevant people in your community, but filtering to include only people that are relevant.​
4. Complete the table below with a discussion and analysis on each organization and individual. (Example below)​
   * **Organization or Individual’s name**
   * **Contribution to community:**What roles do they play in the community? What did they do or represent that prompted their name in the brainstorming?​
   * **Sectors or Community Groups affiliated with:**How would you classify their involvement in the community and with which sectors or groups in the community do they primarily interact with?​
   * **Potential Interest in ERB:**What ways do you imagine they may be interested in contributing to or learning from the ERB process?​
   * **Level of invited involvement in ERB:***(Leave this box blank as it will be completed during community engagement session)*
5. **(Optional)**Each member of the team does further research into more individuals or organizations that team members may not have been aware of and revisit this activity for another work session. ​

**Community Connections Table**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** |
| **Individual/ Organization** | **Contribution to Community** | **Sectors or Community Groups affiliated with** | **Potential Interest in ERB** | **Level of invited involvement in ERB** |
| Example: XYZ Non-profit org | Key contact and resource provider for immigrant families provides weekly dinner open to the community, provides employment assistance and classes, provides community updates on social media | XYZ neighborhood, non-English speaking population, immigrant population, workforce development | Interested in storytelling and connecting with community members, information for disaster preparedness and becoming more of a community resilience resource | **To be completed in activity 2**  *Jayne (organizer) invited to be key member in ERB process, invite all organizations and network to public meetings* |
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**What to do next**

You now have a list of influential individuals and groups in the community that may be helpful in supporting your community resilience efforts. At this point, return to the ERB and continue completing activities to support your community engagement plan, which includes mapping out how the individuals and organizations you identified above are connected and how these relationships may support your community resilience and equity goals.