



# March Peer Discussion: Responding to COVID-19



Aetna Foundation  
Cultivating Healthy Communities

March 31, 2020



# Overview

- Remarks from Aetna Foundation and NYSHealth
- Small Group Discussion
  - COVID-19 impacts on your work
  - How you're adjusting
  - Other topics
- What's Next?
- Feedback

# How COVID-19 has impacted your work

- School closures – health and wellness projects (FLIPANY)
- After school program is canceled (Justin, Missio Church)
- Not being able to work in neighborhoods, community leaders canceling joint projects for safety (Meg, Sustain Charlotte)
- Meetings canceled, project timelines pushed back, organization suspended all in-person services (Stephanie, CORE El Centro)
- Pantries are closed (Gary, Walnut Hills)
- Closure of community center (Olivia, Kaley Square)



# How COVID-19 has impacted your work

- Halted community revitalization projects and public forums (Valerie, YWCA New Britain)
- Suspended billable programming. No programming = no income (Karen, BikeWalkKC)
- Unable to promote face-to-face interactions (Sarah, Creating a Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative)



# Ways you have adjusted to keep things going

- Working remotely, staggering going into the office, mindfulness minutes, trying to understand community needs by hosting Zoom meetings (Heather, Health Foundation Inc.)
- Delivering non-congregate meals, creating activities for students through their school platforms (Kristine, FLIPANY)
- Classes and information online, increasing social media presence and messaging (Stephanie, CORE El Centro)
- Organizing outdoor food pantry (Gary, Walnut Hills)



# Ways you have adjusted to keep things going

- Strategizing how to pivot our strategies (Kara, It's Time Texas)
- Trying to create online resources (Sarah, Healthier Niagara Falls)
- Kids Club in a Bag (Justin, Missio Church)
- Holding brainstorming meetings on how to help, thinking about path forward (Maggie, It's Time Texas)
- Host webinars and virtual chats (Siboney, Sustain Charlotte)



# Other topics re: COVID

- How to keep students involved despite social distancing (Raihaana, FLIPANY)
- Opportunities for funding, other ideas to continue this work and impact (Kristine, FLIPANY)
- What best practices are others finding traction with? What's working and what's not? (Meg, Sustain Charlotte)
- In light of disruptive events like COVID-19, do we need to create a decentralized food system? (Gary, Walnut Hills)
- How to not duplicate services of others (Kara, It's Time Texas)
- Innovative ideas (Veronica, Ambassadors for Christ Youth Ministries)



# Other topics re: COVID

- What other people are doing – voting, census, civic, and connection overall (Sarah, Creating a Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative)
- Continuing community engagement remotely – tools, best practices, etc. (Karen, BikeWalkKC)
- How to keep volunteers engaged (Siboney, Sustain Charlotte)
- Resources for people who do not have internet, computers, etc. to participate in virtual programming (Charita, CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute)
- Cognitive overload (Leah, Center for Court Innovation)







# In Breakouts:

- **How is COVID-19 impacting your work?**
- **Workaround, adaptations, new perspectives**
- **Other insights or Qs for your group**



# Thank you!

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