COMMUINTY RESIDENT FOCUS GROUP GUIDE

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to participate in this focus group.

As part of the Rockford City-Wide Health Literacy Initiative we are conducting discussions with groups of residents from your area to understand how you feel about the COVID-19 Pandemic and the COVID-19 vaccine. Our purpose is to use this information to provide better services for you during the pandemic. We are conducting several groups and would like to learn more about the challenges and barriers you have faced during the pandemic and ways they could be addressed. We ask that the conversation in this group be kept confidential. All information collected during this focus group will be reported in summary and no responses will be associated with individuals.

The focus group will be recorded and we ask for your permission to record. Recordings will be accessed only by the evaluation team.

Ask for permission to record here

ICEBREAKER

Welcome please introduce yourselves (first name only), tell us how long you have lived in this community and one word that describes your experience during the pandemic. – 2 minutes

Let us now talk about the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. What have been the biggest challenges faced by your community during the pandemic?

Probe for:

- Employment
- Childcare
- Basic necessities – food, housing etc
- Health (my health, health of my family)
- Various COVID-19 variants

2. Does your community have access to:
    a. the COVID-19 vaccine
    b. COVID-19 testing
    - Probe: Has this access changed over time?

3. What have been the barriers and challenges to obtaining:
    a. the COVID vaccine
    b. COVID-19 testing in your community?
    - Probe for African American, Latinx and other minority populations populations?

4. What are your biggest concerns about COVID-19 vaccination for children?
    - What has been the response and how can it be addressed?

5. What are the main reasons people in your community have taken the COVID-19 vaccine?

6. What are the main reasons people in your community are hesitant to take the COVID-19 vaccine?

7. How well do you think the pandemic has been managed in Rockford? What can be done differently?

8. Where do you go to get information about COVID-19 or the vaccine?
   Probe for:
   - Internet
   - Religious/spiritual leaders
   - Health care provider
   - Family / friends

9. What are ways in which the pandemic can be addressed / managed?
   Probe for:
   - Testing; access to testing
   - Vaccinations; access to vaccinations
   - Social distancing
   - Masking guidelines
   - Following guidelines from health professionals

10. Do you have any additional suggestions or comments about how to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic?