

Sheboygan County

Hmong Educational Needs Assessment Project Sheboygan County Input

Please think about your life experiences and how you learn best. How and where would you like to learn in your community?

How:

- Formal/Structured classroom
- Internet, especially for young
- Variety of methods depending on situation and level of education
- Cable TV, but need more information on specific topics
- Hands on / visual opportunities
- Hmong radio – but not available 24 hours a day

Where:

- A familiar place and familiar face
- Structured classroom
- Home visits – person-to-person and group
- Church – Hmong Association
- Work place
- Teacher that's knowledgeable about subject matter
- Trust

What challenges and issues are you seeing in your local Hmong community?

Family Issues:

- Parenting (early)
- Domestic problem
- Youth Issues – youth need place to go (open gym)
- Place for parents and youth to go – parents learn while youth have fun
- Need to focus on prevention
- Need for parental self – esteem / knowledge / confidence
- Language & communication
- Nutrition education working with Hmong ingredients
- Food choice – portion size
- Educators need to be culturally aware, knowledgeable, and sensitive
- Need to feel integrated even within Hmong community
- Time and desire and motivation to learn (language, etc.) especially middle ages and older
- Employers need to make time available to learn and incentives for learning
- Create desire as incentive to learn

What has successfully worked for your local Hmong community in the past to address these challenges and issues?

- Kohler Company crash course on writing Hmong
- Need to know and trust teacher

- Flexibility of teaching methods, time, etc.
- Take program / service to them - home visit
- Make learning opportunities fun for family, especially kids
- Make childcare available / free
- Start with positive topics

What are the challenges facing Hmong individuals and families?

- See above family issues

What are the challenges facing Hmong businesses and business owners?

- Business forms and documents are a challenge
- Need for a checklist to identify what needs to be done
- Diversify markets to other than Hmong
- Financing
- Need for "one stop shop" for business information
- Tax information

Could you also tell us about issues or needs for:

Elderly:

- More programs (knowledge and entertainment type programs and recreational opportunities)
- Location / facility for seniors
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Nursing homes / preparation and positive aspects
- Funeral costs and insurance issues
- End of life issues
- Health care issues
- Day care for adults

Housing:

- Need for bigger homes (4-5 bedroom)
- Landlord problems, tenant / renter rights
- Housing code

Education:

- Parents as Teachers program not expanding to diverse community
- Educational opportunities are lacking for young children in Hmong community
- Language barrier especially with Grandparents

Health of Individuals and Families:

- See accompanying report "Hmong Healthcare Needs Assessment Project, Sheboygan County Wisconsin

Educational Topics:

- Transfer parenting first year information to a Hmong tape and or video
- Need for parents understanding "special education" – have workshop or regular opportunities to increase understanding of consequences
- Financial aids / student loans are available for adult continuing education

- Group- learning at own pace opportunities (Lakeland, investment club)
- Investment
- Preparing for retirement
- Funeral planning
- Career and college choices for youth (guidance counselor need to reach out more)
- Financial aid and scholarships (how to write for them youth and adults)
- How to start a business and survive
- How to navigate and access the legal system
- Understand governmental structure

What would be the best way for you to learn about those topics?

- Classroom teaching
- Retreats
- Presentations / workshops
- One to one teaching
- Informal gatherings in familiar places

Any additional thoughts you would like to share with us?

- Infosource information is outdated and content is lost through translation

Focus Group Demographics

Date of the Focus Group Meeting: 2-17-02

Site Location: Sheboygan

Facilitator: Dave Such and Jane Jensen

Number of participants at the site - **8**

Number of men - **0**

Number of women - **8**

Number of male youth - **0**

Number of female youth - **0**

Number of Hmong participants - **8**

Number of other Southeast Asian - **0**

Number of African American - **0**

Number of Caucasian - **0**

Numbers of Other **0** describe:

Number of people under the age of 20 - **0**

Number of people 20 to 30 - **1**

Number of people 30 to 40 - **5**

Number of people 40 to 55 - **1**

Number of people 55 to 65 - **0**

Number of people 65 and older - **0**

(Age to be determined by the best estimate by the facilitator)