Collaborative Data Analysis Workshop

Observations and findings from the Collaborative Data Analysis Workshop break out groups

Food Access

Data Observations and Themes:

- Change in methods – brought food to people

- Deepening of partnerships and collaborative structures.

- Sheer number of programs going on; new, existing with more capacity, and return of older programs

- Many mentions of specific priority populations (PP)

Interpretation:

- Increase in activities connected to the significant amount of new funding and volunteers

- New methods reflected barriers that existed before (e.g., transportation in rural areas), but additional resources made innovation possible.

- Populations that experienced the highest food insecurity were frequently aligned with MiM PPs
    - That programs with partners had targeted engagement of PPs represents something new – food distribution partners did not use this approach prior to COVID-19/partnership with MiM coalition.
    - Acute need among seniors – a PP before, but emerged as a major focus during pandemic

- Although partnership/collaboration increased overall, it did not look the same in all communities. Ex. Some experienced high CBO <> muni partnerships, some CBOs working together only.

Post-Pandemic:

- Partnerships sustained and have led to additional services or referral networks for some

- Question: Will changes/improvements in resources be sustained, (because the need will)?

- Hypothesis: In denser areas, need for food delivery may decline with wane of pandemic, this is unlikely to be the case in rural areas.

Priority Population Engagement

Data Observations and Themes:

- Sheer amount of work

- Collaboration to provide linguistic and culturally appropriate support of PPs.
  - MiM Coordinators were well-positioned to serve as a bridge/liaison among service providers, translation services, and groups serving vulnerable populations

- Similar needs of priority populations, regardless of community and place

- Removing barriers for PPs to access services
  - Meeting people where they were

Interpretation:

- Increased visibility of need, specifically among PPs
  - Outside of MiM coalition, there was not familiarity with PPs and the focus on health equity approach. New approach adopted by others during pandemic.
  - MiM coordinators were prepared to do this work b/c of MiM approach.

- Silos broken down in moment of crisis
  - In some cases role of municipalities grew, in some opportunities for CBOs grew

- Work moved faster when other groups paid attention to health equity, a lot was accomplished

- Coordinators focused on similar PPs across state, e.g. older adults

Post-Pandemic:

- *Question: Will people return to silos when the pandemic wanes?*