



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Changing Populations

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Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in two-minute report

1. Update on progress on your Theme Priorities since our July meeting;

Goal #	Description of priority, activity and progress
CP-1A&B	Senior Transportation. Continue to work with Transportation theme to map existing transportation services public and private in the region. Before the new year will convene partners across the five county area to discuss what is currently happening with transportation options and review models that are being used successfully elsewhere. Explore how we can work together as a region to do a better job of having usable transportation options in place for all people that cannot drive themselves.
CP-2	Preventative Health as a strategy to keep seniors independent in their own homes. Continue to track progress of the Health Theme in this area and be involved in getting a consistent healthy living message out to our partners that work with aging populations. Make sure that whatever is developed makes sense for seniors.
CP-3 A,B,C	Race Equity and Excellence in Education Leadership. Continue to coordinate and assist with efforts of CLC to address this issue in schools across the region to improve the understanding of the impact that race and low income has on achievement in our schools and to set and implement community goals that can improve educational outcomes. In Mille Lacs we are hosting our second community planning session tonight, to develop an action plan to address the equity gap in education. In Brainerd, we are trying to secure funding for a part-time position to help with the process. With budget cuts we have lost some key point people on this project but we are committed to moving forward!

1. New opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration:

Goal #	Description of opportunity
CP-2	Interested in following up with what was done in Mower County with preventative health messages and activities. Would like to explore how this would work in our region and particularly with seniors.

Changing Populations

Changing Populations Issues

Changing populations: As our future workforce shrinks and ages, it is important that every citizen has the skills necessary to be productive, valued, and self-reliant, rather than dependent on society. Ethnic diversity will continue to grow and expand from existing clusters that are now mostly associated with areas of food processing jobs and will be an important source of future workforce growth. The region's aging population impacts every area for which we are planning. Housing, transportation, land use, and the current and future workforce will all be affected by the age of our population.

Changing Populations Goal

Changing populations: As the region's population changes, make adjustments to meet the need and seize the opportunities these changes present.

Recommendation 1

Public transit: Focus on developing low-cost, reasonable access to transit service for communities, specifically to serve the aging population.

Action Step A

Map transit system and identify gaps: Examine current data to map the region's existing and planned public transit system. Identify gaps in the systems and seek opportunities to provide appropriate forms of public transit for the region's existing density pattern and that will support independence and self-reliance to the extent possible.

Action Step B

Funding: Work with county, state and federal transportation organizations to pursue funding for Public Transit and get regional needs on their plans. Consider the ability of some parts of the aging population to contribute toward the cost of these systems as they utilize them

Recommendation 2

Housing support services: Provide housing support services to the elderly and mentally ill that would allow them the option of remaining as independent as possible under their circumstances.

Action Step A

Map services and identify gaps: Map existing services for elderly and mentally ill individuals throughout the region. Identify any gaps in housing support services for the elderly and mentally ill populations.

Action Step B

Collaborate: Bring together organizations with an interest in these areas to collectively plan how to meet identified support service needs.

Recommendation 3

Diverse workforce: As our population becomes more diverse and the need for new workers increases, the region must offer services and opportunities to welcome newcomers into our communities and workforce.

Action Step A

Identify changes: Use data to track and identify areas in the region where newcomers are commonly locating.

Action Step B

Map services: Research and map existing and planned services for newcomers in areas where they live and/or tend to be locating.

Action Step C

Identify and address service gaps: Collaborate with local governments, schools, nonprofits, churches, and local businesses to identify and address gaps in services needed to incorporate newcomers into the social and work fabric of the region.

Recommendation 4

Older workers: As the workforce in the region grows and many older workers need to continue working longer for financial reasons, or for personal satisfaction, the region will need to offer opportunities and services to update the skills of older workers.

Action Step A

Identify and address skills gaps: Work with local and regional businesses to identify the gaps between the existing skills of older workers and the skills they will need to be productive workers in today's world. Support the efforts of local and regional educational organizations and businesses as they work together to address older workers' skill gaps in a way that is effective and timely

Action Step B

Funding: Gain and coordinate local support and advocate with federal elected officials to increase funding levels for effective programs for older workers
