

# Somali Cultural Awareness

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## **Neighborhood Involvement Somali Families**

- Design a project that attracts the community
- The project has to be culturally appropriate (men & women)/ (boys/girls)

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## **Neighborhood Involvement Somali Families**

- Introduce yourself and your agency one or two times before you share the information you would like to share
- Then share the information you would like to share in a simple strategic fun way in order to get their input
- Always ask permission for taking pictures especially the Somali women and explain the purpose of the pictures you are taking

# Neighborhood Involvement Community Event

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## **Leadership Somali Community**

- Find out the areas that the community is lacking for leadership
- Educate/train those who chose to be leaders and others whom you would like to be engaged give them an opportunity to get the explanation of the leadership trainings in a simple way
- Show examples of other Somali Community members who are in a leadership position while showing some pictures, dates they got trainings and how they succeed
- Be flexible for training days and times especially weekends and afternoons.
- Place of the training has to be very close to their resident or provide transportation with a direction (Bus #)

## **Civic Participation**

- Bilingual outreach staff to conduct door to door information sharing.
- Work with courts to ask Somali volunteers for community services.  
This is an effective strategy to promote Somali community civic engagement and participation in community development.
- This also promotes the quality of life in the Somali Community through both political and non-political process.

## **Civic Engagement**

Give an honor the family member to get a picture with you, have some conversation with the family member, encourage to come next time, offer special invitation to join the up coming community meeting such as budget hearing, city council or neighborhood meetings and always remind them that you will provide a translator / interpreter in case their children couldn't make it

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## **After School Program**

After school program should be a program that students and parents agree and feel comfortable being part of the programs to participate their kids.

## **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Programs that students like to participate and their parents trust their involvements  
eg: pictures, dance, etc.

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## **Parent Teacher Meeting**

Students getting award, give special attention to their family members by offering a family picture, ask their address or ways to give them back the pictures, talk to the parent about his/her kid even talk with the family members or friends whom they invited also say good things about that kid especially his/her hard work.

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## **After School Program**

Instead of a fashion show re-name it as a cultural night, while encouraging teens to dress like adults or wear their traditional dress while reminding them to invite their parents and bring cultural food if possible. Comment the food, talk to the parents or invite the parents to other/upcoming school or neighborhood organized projects

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## **Suggestions To Better Serve The Students From Somali Community**

- There should be increased communication between parents and the school system either by calling parents or sending simple notes to home.
- The school boards should design outreach activities within the community, to inform parents school activities and solicit parental inputs.
- Hire Somali teachers, social workers and psychologists to better serve the needs of Somali students.
- Involve parents in decisions and meetings concerning students' course selections and future carriers by using on site interpreters.
- School suspensions of Somali students should be revisited, and if possible replaced with other alternatives.
- Formal letters of communication could be written in clear and simple English, and if possible translated into Somali languages.

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