The community of Panorama City is characterized by their strong history of collaboration. Community leaders have come together to address a number of issues, including supporting mental health in early child care, gang prevention and the recent development of a neighborhood council. Despite facing many challenges, Panorama City has been successful in building relationships with diverse sectors, including hospitals, schools, clinics, faith and community-based organizations. One example of this is the community’s partnership with 20 churches to bring nursing services to congregations.

Community leadership in Panorama City is described as “collaborative,” “consistent,” “reliable,” “varied” and “dispersed.”

Why Panorama City

Panorama City had a higher percentage of third graders scoring below basic or far below basic on the 2008 English Language Arts California Standards Test when compared Countywide. More than two-thirds of area residents (age 5+) speak a language other than English in the home, with adult residents (age 25+) proportionately less likely to hold a high school diploma or equivalency than Los Angeles County adults. The area ‘s low birth weight birth rate was also higher than the County rate.

The efforts of Panorama City in addressing these challenges is supported by substantial funding from Los Angeles Universal Preschool and First 5 LA per capita of zero to five year olds and First 5 LA investments in collaboratives such as Best Babies Collaborative and Partnership for Families. The area also has a high rate of libraries per 1,000 zero-to-five year olds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Areas of High-Need</th>
<th>Panorama City</th>
<th>L.A. County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of 3rd graders below or far below basic on the English Language Arts CST</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA. Dept of Education, 2008</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>% of population (age 5+) speaking a language other than English at home</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nielsen Claritas, 2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low birth weight birth rate</td>
<td>1.4 per 1,000</td>
<td>1.1 per 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA Dept. of Public Health, 2008</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Panorama City Ethnicity/ Race 2009

- Hispanic: 2%
- White: 12%
- African American or Black: 15%
- Asian & Pacific Islander: 4%
- Other: 68%
**Leadership**

“How do we share power? Whose collaborative is this? It took 8-10 months to feel somewhat natural to do this. Now collaboration is easy, like second nature, like breathing.”

Local collaboratives in the Panorama City community are useful mechanisms by which leaders find out about emerging issues in the community. Relationships among leaders have evolved through collaboration and these relationships are now the foundation for future collaboration. Residents have organized over some issues, such as mobilizing to create the North Hills East Neighborhood Council. The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) activity, while just beginning in the area, is described as moving in the direction of advocacy. Local organizations are working with parents and residents, and in the next several months, the NAC should be better able to interface politically.

**Infrastructure**

“One of the primary reasons why adult schools are so effective in LAUSD is because we’re out in the community.”

Organizations serving the community have a strong understanding of local needs and families look to them for support. Schools and agencies of the Panorama City community were described as the most common places for families to congregate. There are several large, established agencies providing services in the community. Adult education classes are popular and well-utilized, particularly because there has been active outreach in the community to encourage residents to enroll. Despite the effects of the economic downturn, nonprofits serving the area are adapting and responding to fiscal challenges by utilizing new methods to pursue funding.

**Engaging Multiple Sectors**

“This community has community partners that work well with the LAUSD Early Childhood Education Division.”

The Panorama City community has a strong collaborative spirit evident across multiple sectors. One partnership which provides nursing services to faith-based congregations has 20 participating churches with good collaboration across religious denominations. Local agencies also often partner with local elected county and city officials to leverage program support. A partnership between the Valley Industry and Commercial Association and area schools is working to engage the business sector through the development of employment training and new opportunities in green technology.

**Investments**

“I’m seeing a lot more economic development in Panorama City.”

The investment in the Panorama City community can be characterized as poised for growth. The Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles has been going to different areas in the community to see where they can invest, conducting focus groups in the area to facilitate this process in late 2009. First 5 LA also has current investments in Family Literacy, Best Babies collaborative of the Healthy Births Initiative, School Readiness and Los Angeles Universal Preschool. While the recent formation of chambers of commerce in the area, is seen as a positive step in developing business investment. Community organizations have also been successful in leveraging federal funding for staff salaries by hiring employees through the WorkSource centers.

*Unless otherwise noted, this profile was informed by community focus groups and interviews.*