

Synthesis Workshop Discussion Guide



This tool was developed by POAH in partnership with Design Impact as part of a larger effort to make housing more trauma-informed. To learn more about POAH's work and see how this exercise might fit into your own organization's efforts to become more trauma-informed, visit POAH's Trauma-Informed Housing Toolkit at: traumainformedhousing.poah.org

Purpose

This activity can be completed after data have been collected, organized, and grouped into themes. The purpose of this activity is to unpack the data and discuss whether the themes are reflective of what the participants heard in their interviews and focus groups. Participants should have access to the data before the meeting and have had ample time to review them.

Tips for Trauma-Informed Practice

- **Abandon the plan if necessary:** Be responsive to the needs and desires of participants. Prioritize the group over the agenda.
- **Practice transparency:** Explain the purpose and plan for the session. Set clear expectations. Articulate what comes next.
- **Offer choice:** Offer participants choice wherever possible, such as meeting time/location, use of camera or chat (virtual) or whether to split into breakouts or remain as a group.
- **Give room:** If difficult feedback or painful emotions arise in the discussion, allow room for expression. Avoid minimizing the experience or proposing solutions that may bypass it.

ACTIVITY

Small Group Discussion (can be done virtually or in-person)

Materials

- Data set including individual data points grouped by theme. Each theme should have a title and brief description. The data set should be printed and/or emailed in advance.
- Note taking materials

Small Group Discussion

For large groups or large data sets, split into small groups that focus on 2-4 themes each. Assign a notetaker!

In groups of 2 or more, give participants the option to read the themes aloud or on their own. As a group, discuss the following:

- What struck you? What stands out?
- What's missing here? Is there anything we heard that is not reflected in these themes? What other stories from your interviews belong here?
- How would you describe each theme? Would you change any of the descriptions?
- Which themes feel especially relevant to your property or your experience?

Large Group Discussion

Come back together as a full group and share back.

- What were some of your takeaways?
- What stood out?
- What changes did your group suggest?

