



Diverse Partnerships and Community Outreach as a Collaborative Effort

August 21, 2024

MULDINET Communities of Practice Series

Presented by

Shantel Bishoff and Sumiko Martinez



Thank You To Our Key Partners!



Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services
Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice
UtahStateUniversity.





Pre-Meeting Expectations

- **Neuro-Friendly**
 - Fidget items and sensory needs
 - Cameras off/on - whatever suits you!
 - Sit/stand/move wherever you feel comfortable and engaged
- **During the Presentation**
 - Interactive questions - you'll be able to type your answers in the chat or unmute to speak!
- **Real-life messiness!**



Agenda

- Overview of AA21 Utah Project Programs
- Importance of Diverse Partnerships
- Building Strong Relationships
- Community Engagement Strategies
- Leveraging Strengths of Different Partners
- Measuring Impact & Success
- Overcoming Challenges
- Conclusion
- Question & Answer Session



Overview of AA21 Utah Project Programs



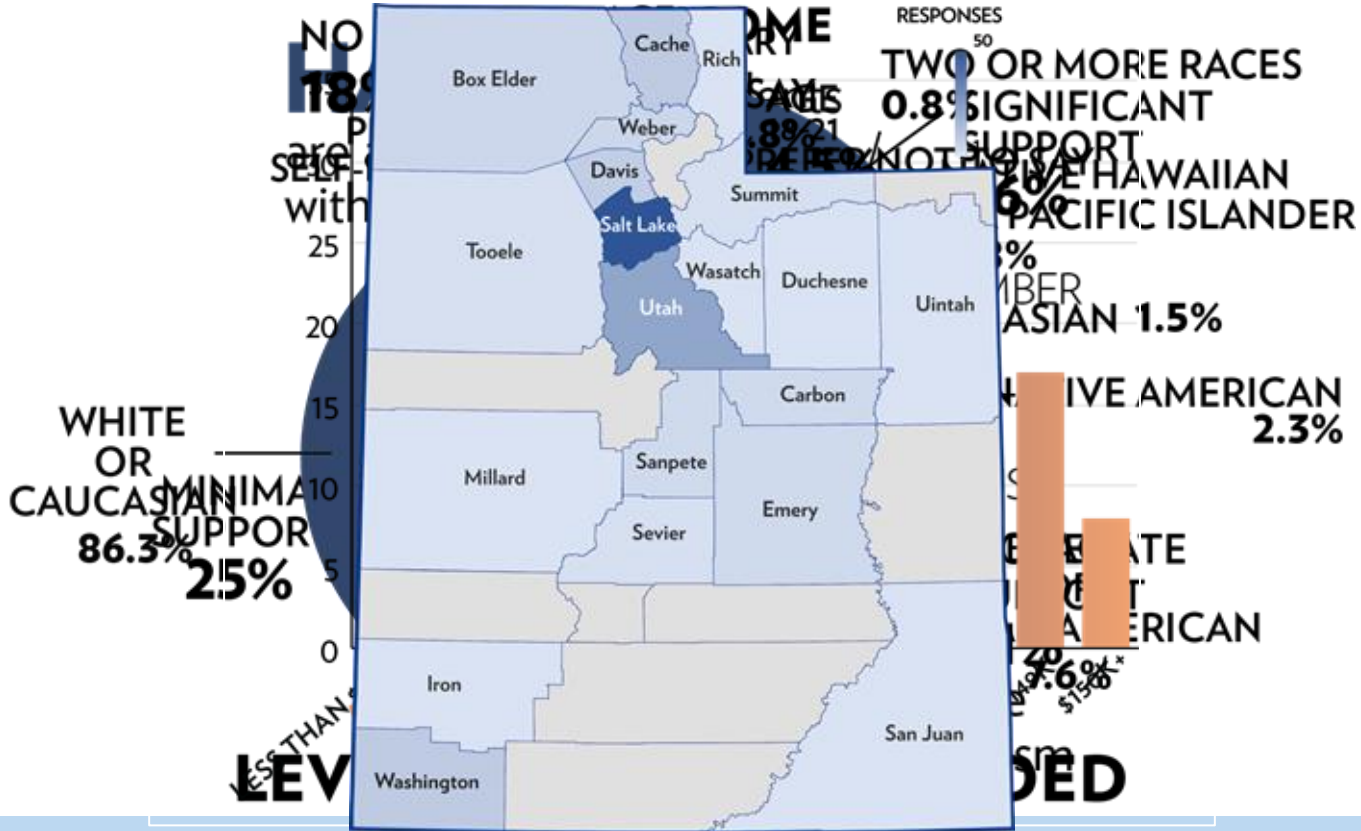
AA21 Utah Report

Scan to download PDFs
of the report & toolkits!





Dimensions of Diversity on AA21 Utah Study





Top Needs Identified

61% - Housing

43% - Belonging & Friendship

41% - Social Services

38% - Recreation



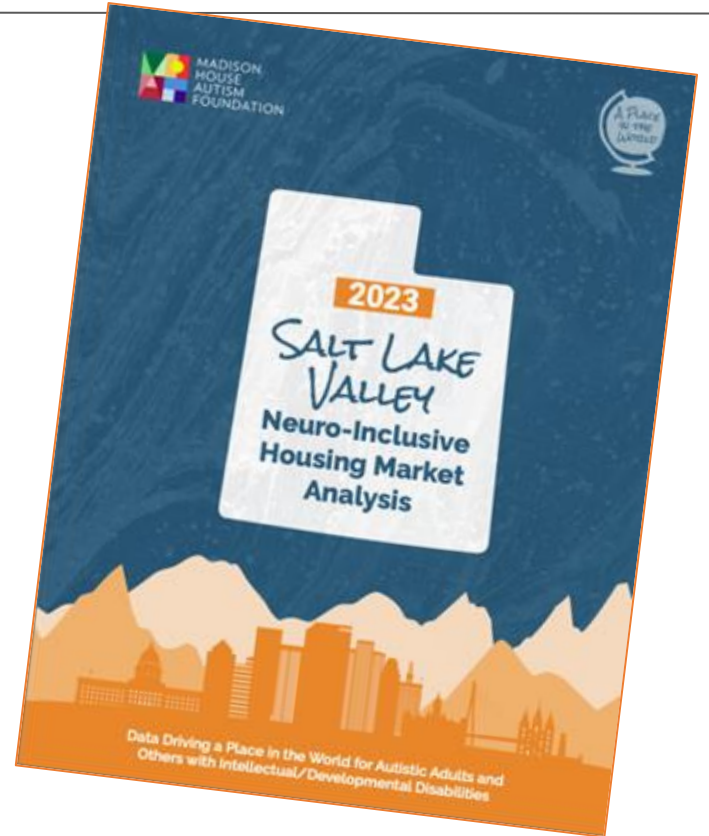
Regional Working Groups





Neuro-Inclusive Housing Market Analysis Studies

Download the report:





Importance of Diverse Partnerships



Broad Perspectives

- Viewpoints, experiences, and expertise → deeper understanding & innovative solution
- Recruiting study participants
 - Contacted 80+ organizations
 - 20+ organizations partnered on outreach



Photo by Creatas Images on Freeimages.com



Resource Sharing



Photo by cottonbro studio on pexels.com

- Knowledge
- Networks
- Audiences
- Supporting each other
 - Posting events
 - Responding to questions or surveys



Building Strong Relationships



Trust and Communication

- Building trust with partners
 - Active listening
 - Reciprocity
 - Showing up
 - Implementing feedback

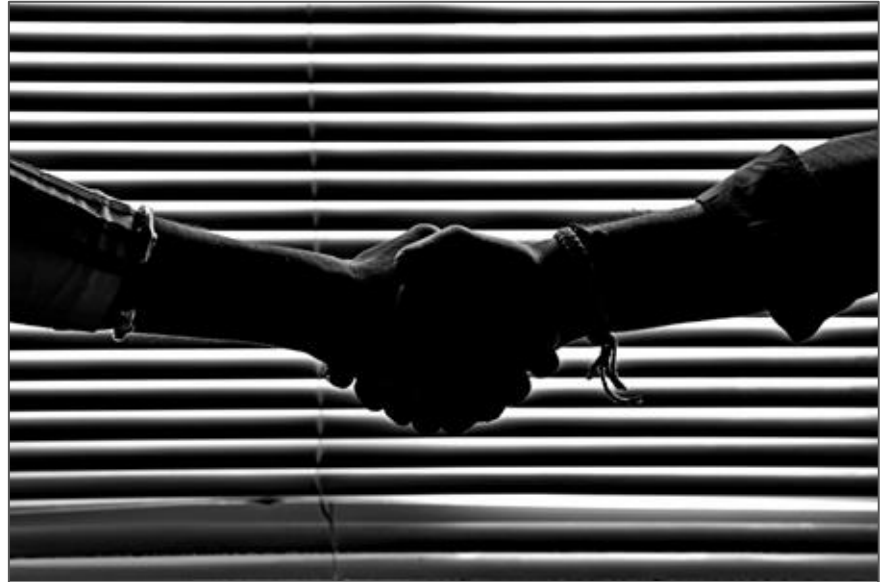


Photo by Savvas Stavrinos on pexels.com



Shared Goals



Photo by Engin Akyurt on pexels.com

- Shared vision
- Clear goals
- Agreed-upon outcomes
- Focus on what's best for the partnership and our shared goals



Community Engagement Strategies



Inclusive Outreach

- Representative of community's diversity
 - Cultural
 - Racial
 - Socio-economic
 - Age
 - Geographic
 - ...and more!
- Respecting cultural differences in disability perspectives



Photo by Markus Winkler on pexels.com



Feedback Mechanisms



Photo by Ann H on pexels.com

- Create feedback loops to hear from the community
 - Partners
 - Those you serve
- Take their needs seriously
- Adjust strategies, programs, or services accordingly



Leveraging Strengths of Different Partners



Complementary Skills

- Each outreach partner will have different strengths and connections
 - Community organizations
 - Corporate partners
 - Service providers
 - Advocacy organizations
- Works together to ensure representative diversity for outreach efforts



Photo by Pixabay on pexels.com



Measuring Impact & Success



Evaluation Metrics



Photo by RDNE Stock project on pexels.com

- How do partners measure success?
 - Qualitative
 - Quantitative
 - Outputs/outcomes
- How will you assess diversity?
- Compare your parameters carefully!



Overcoming Challenges



Resource Constraints

- Limited resources
 - Budget
 - Staff capacity
 - Technological capacity
- Differing priorities
- Logistical challenges
 - Travel ability/geographic



Photo by Pixabay on pexels.com



Conclusion



Diverse Partnerships & Community Outreach as a Collaborative Effort: It's Hard, But It's Worth It!



Question & Answer Session



Thank You!

Contact Us

Shantel Bishoff
Southern Utah Outreach Coordinator
Madison House Autism Foundation
sbishoff@madisonhouseautism.org

Sumiko Martinez
Former Director, AA21 Utah Project
utah@madisonhouseautism.org