

Hate, Discrimination & Bias



Photo provided by Indian American Community Services.

Hate, Discrimination, and Bias

Themes

In focus groups and interviews, a number of demographic groups reported experiences of hate, discrimination, or bias, including Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), immigrant and refugee, and LGBTQIA2S+ communities. Support to address discrimination or racism stood out as a significant service gap. Only 25% of survey respondents who accessed this support reported that they were able to access the service in their community and only 22% were able to find the service in a place that they could travel to in a reasonable amount of time. Only 16% of those seeking this support felt they were able to receive the service in a reasonable amount of time after contacting the organization. With respect to satisfaction, only 17% received support in a language that met their language or cultural needs and only 21% were satisfied with the support they received.

When asked what 1-2 things would have the most positive impact on the City of Bellevue, participants in the African Diaspora Community focus group highlighted phrases like “talking like this”, “bringing us to the table”, and “a place for communities to [build relationships with the City], so outreach is easier when connections are needed.



While focus group participants did not speak specifically to incidents of hate, BIPOC communities emphasized the need for representation at decision-making tables to reduce the prevalence of bias and misunderstanding of community needs. As one illustration, when asked what 1-2 things would have the most positive impact on the City of Bellevue, participants in the African Diaspora Community focus group highlighted phrases like *“talking like this”, “bringing us to the table”, and “a place for communities to [build relationships with the City], so outreach is easier when connections are needed.”*

Service Trends

Below are examples of service trends in the areas of hate, discrimination, and bias. These examples are intended to provide a snapshot of this service area and are not a comprehensive reflection of available services in Bellevue.

- **Centro Cultural Mexicano** works to empower Latino and Spanish-speaking youth by providing an inclusive space that connects youth and families with positive culture identity, community, and with resources in Spanish and English.
- **Youth Eastside Services** provides a Latine program offering culturally relevant youth development activities led by bi-cultural and bi-lingual staff.
- **Eastside For All's Community Safety Response** supports racial and cultural communities that are most impacted by identity-based, bias-motivated forms of violence and discrimination, including hate crimes.
- **Africans on the Eastside** involves youth in the provision of social media resources to their peers that increases dialogue and understanding of current events impacting their well-being.

