

# PEPS PROGRAM EVALUATION AND COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

To better understand how PEPS can adapt to be more accessible and responsive to underserved communities, we conducted an organizational assessment in 2019, getting input from parents and community-based organizations across all 3 of our regions in the community to learn about how we can better show up for families in our region.

Parents shared with us the biggest barriers to PEPS — including the program fee, that we host many of our groups in homes, and that we offer English-only groups. We've taken action to break down these barriers by offering [Flexible Pricing](#), providing more groups in community sites, and translating our curriculum into Spanish. We also learned about the larger challenges we're all facing - like access to affordable childcare, housing and transportation.

Everything we've learned has shaped our path forward and the outcomes of this assessment have and continue to inform our work.

- All parents need **social support**
- All parents need **quality affordable childcare**
- Low income parents need **affordable housing**
- Low income parents need **access to basic needs**
- Immigrant and refugee parents need **translation and language support**
- Teen moms need to feel **less judged by community members and access to transitional housing**



**PEPS**

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## COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF PEPS MODEL

### POSITIVE



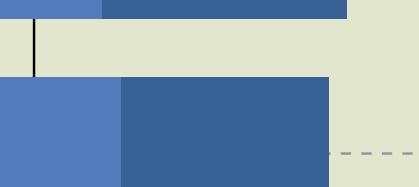
GROUP SIZE



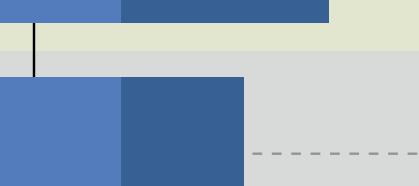
GROUP LEADERS



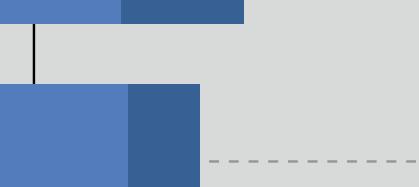
NEW MOMS ONLY GROUPS



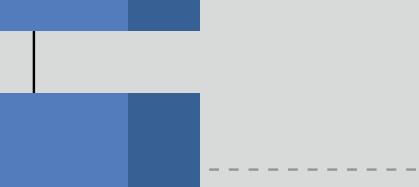
NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED GROUPS



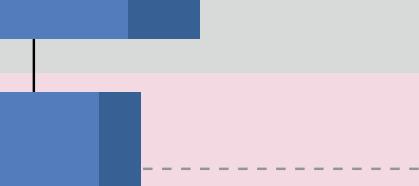
CUPLE ONLY GROUPS



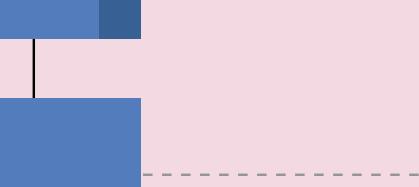
CLOSED GROUPS



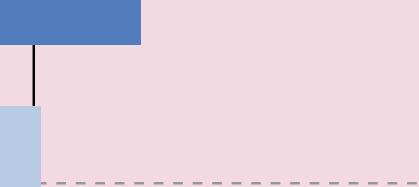
THREE-MONTH GROUPS



ENGLISH LANGUAGE GROUPS



HOSTING IN HOMES



PROGRAM FEE

### NEUTRAL

### NEGATIVE

"I didn't know there was other mothers in this school and now I can talk to these mothers and know that they have babies and if I need advice, I can just come up to them like, Hey, help me out. Do you have some advice?"  
—Cocoon House Focus Group Participant

"I was a first time mother, and because you're in a different country and you don't know how the systems work. It helps me get out of the house and it is good for me and my daughter to socialize with others."  
—Open Arms Focus Group Participant

"I didn't know where to go when I was pregnant, but coming to PEPS, they'd pass their babies around, hold them, and they taught me some ways to parent [my daughter] and read her books and stuff like that."  
—Cocoon House Focus Group Participant

## PILOT GROUP\* PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

\*Partnerships with Open Arms serving spanish-speaking moms and with Cocoon House, Crossroads High School, and Compass Health serving teen moms

**CONNECTIONS WITH PARENTS**  
continued after the group ended

The group **DEVELOPED TRUST**

Moms felt **SUPPORTED AND INCLUDED** in a community

**NON-JUDGMENTAL**

Strong interest in **DEVELOPMENTAL MOMENT** and learning about babies

## NEXT STEPS FOR PEPS

Engage in advocacy efforts to improve family outcomes

Explore further adoptions to accessible fee structure

Pay more attention to identity and intersectionality in programming

Invest in and collaborate with partners to deliver effective groups

Offer groups in languages other than English

Continue to embed racial equity into all parts of PEPS

Ensure local leadership and accessible community sites for groups