




Building Community Power through Food and Education Systems Transformation

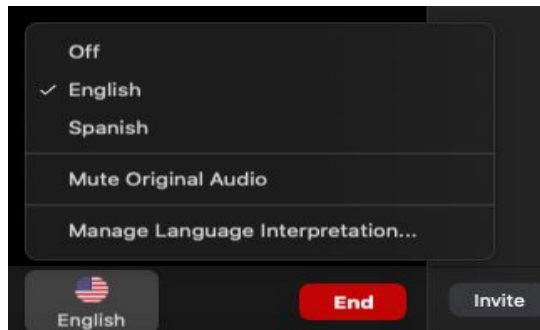
December 5, 2024

*2024 NOW Webinar Series, Imperative of NOW:
Community Power and Healing-Centered Advocacy*

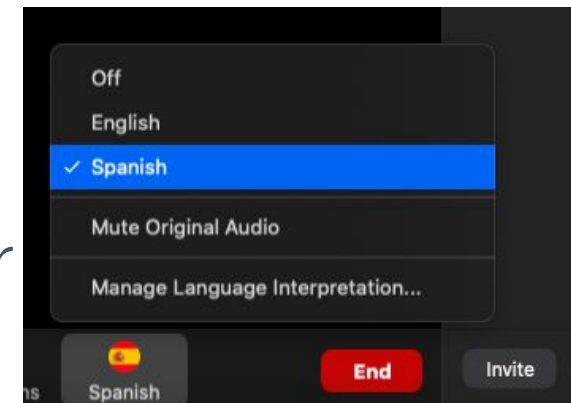


Language Justice: *Zoom Webinar Interpretación/ Interpretation*

1. In your meeting/webinar controls, click Interpretation. 
2. Click the language that you would like to hear.
3. (Optional) To only hear the interpreted language, click Mute Original Audio.



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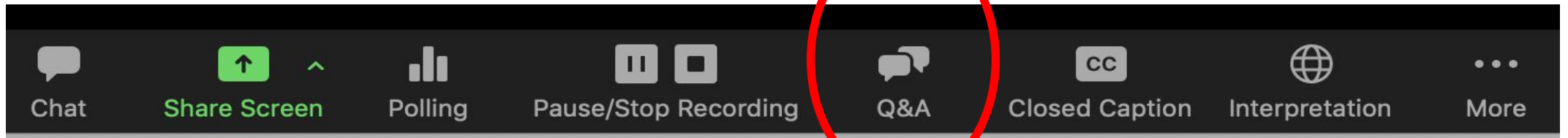


Housekeeping

- Spanish Language Access
 - Community Language Cooperative (CLC) based in Denver, CO
- Slides and recording will be posted on the NOW Forum (<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/Webinar>)
- Submit questions on dashboard
- Use the chat box for comments

Q&A

- Submit your questions by clicking on the Q&A icon at the bottom of your screen





Session Outline

- Welcome & Overview
- About Vital Village Networks and NOW
- *Building Community Power through Food and Education Systems Transformation*
- Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A
- Closing

About Vital Village Networks

Vital Village Networks is a national collective of diverse change-makers and organizations committed to pioneering sustainable approaches to transforming child, family, and community wellbeing

Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing (NOW) is a national initiative powered by Vital Village Networks

NOW exists to achieve social transformation and racial justice by partnering with individuals, organizations, institutions, and coalitions across the country to build their capacity to equitably share power with communities that have faced ongoing racial oppression and marginalization.



Guiding Principles

BELONG - Centered in dignity and equity



LEARN - Those closest to the challenge are closest to the solution



ENGAGE - Design with, not for, users



TRANSFORM - Identify and frame challenges to address collectively

NOW Innovation Forum – Sign up to engage with a network of community leaders



¡Ya está en marcha una versión en español de nuestro sitio web!
Estamos muy emocionados de practicar la justicia del idioma,
mientras tanto, le agradecemos su paciencia. ¡Gracias!

<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/>

2024 Webinar Series

Imperative of NOW: Community Power and Healing-Centered Advocacy

- What does it look like to harness, activate and build community power?
- What can we learn from resident-led advocacy movements -- from voter education, birth equity, food systems, and early childhood education -- and their strategies towards self-advocacy, collective action, and legislative change?

Today's Webinar:

Building Community Power through Food and Education Systems Transformation



Tailor Coble
*FoodPrints Early Childhood
Program Manager,
FRESHFARM*

Community Engagement and Education: Building Knowledge & Power



FRESHFARM
nourishing our food future



Our Approach--> Engaging community to increase food access



Center
community
voices



Engage partners
in holistic
solutions



Facilitate
community-driven
coalitions



Provide training
and technical
assistance



Combining Food Education with Food Access

Innovative educational resources to support local food preparation at school and



Produce 101 Guide available online and as a booklet with storage and easy meal preparation tips



QR Code included with produce bags that helps families identify, store, and prepare local produce



Training and technical assistance to early childcare providers both online and in-person

Community Food Educators

Recruiting, training, and empowering residents and caregivers as Food Educators

- A six-week workforce development training covering nutrition & food education, leadership, culinary skills, program management, and food navigation
- Embedding Food Educators with lived experiences at schools and in childcare communities to create positive relationships with fresh, nourishing foods
 - “Chop it Up” sessions, tastings, classroom support, gardening sessions, etc.



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Food Navigator Training

Equipping market operators and caseworkers to support food resource navigation

- Training market operators and other nonprofit caseworkers to better support shoppers using nutrition benefits at farmers markets
- Destigmatizing the use of nutrition benefits at market by creating a more welcoming shopping environment

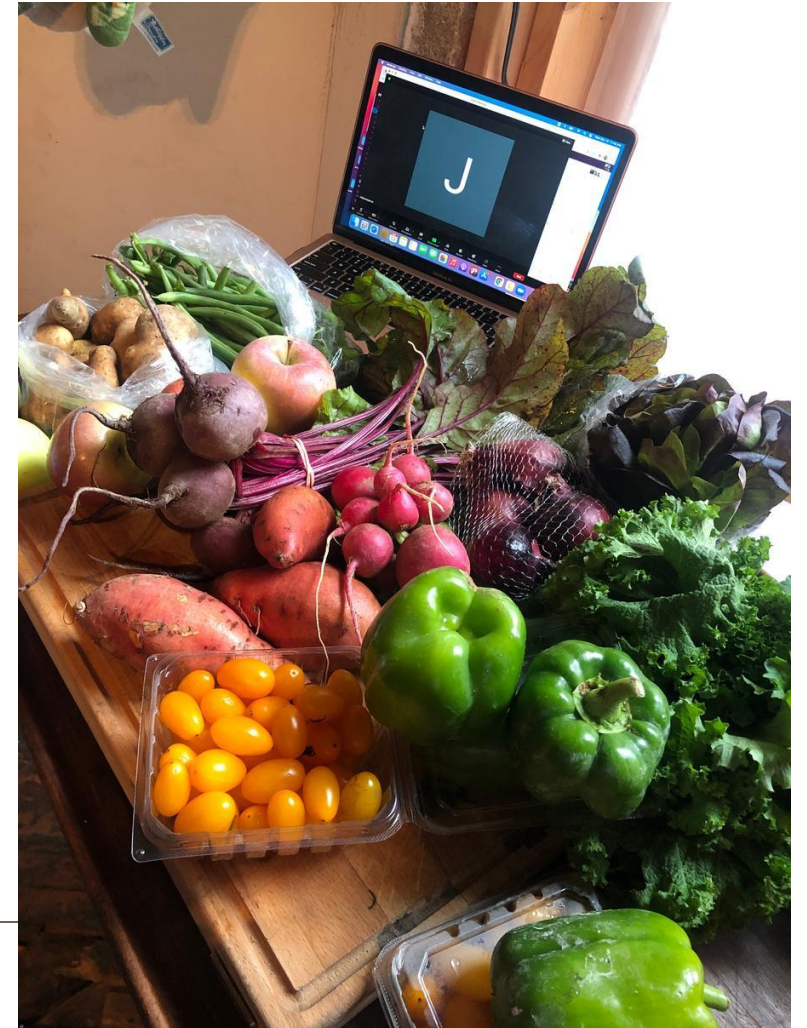


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Coalition-Building

Intentional communication and meeting facilitation that empowers residents

- Acknowledge community members, caregivers, parents and individuals providing direct services as experts
- Empower, equip, and educate residents with lived experiences with hunger and food insecurity to influence and inform food access programs



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Building and Sustaining Community Power

Strategies for authentically working in communities, increasing agency, and power

- Actively listen and leave your biases at the door
- Be as transparent and communicative as possible with funders about timelines and expectations
- Always make your intentions known to the communities you're working with
- Keep your goals and programming flexible to allow for community input and discourse every step of the way
- Accept your role as facilitator; communities already know what they need to thrive!



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Building and Sustaining Community Power

Strategies for authentically working in communities, increasing agency, and power

- Create opportunities for community members to become leaders
- Provide tangible skills and resources that allow communities to better advocate for themselves
- Collaboratively develop “gradual release” plans for the work to continue without you
- Make yourself available to support their work and interests in ways that make sense
- Don't be afraid to be a squeaky wheel for your community!



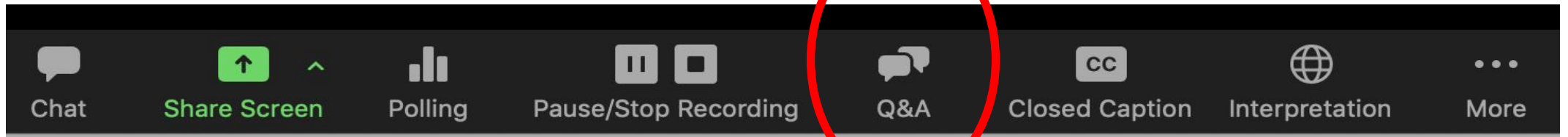
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Q & A

Question and
Answer

Q&A

- Submit your questions by clicking on the Q&A icon at the bottom of your screen



Stay Connected

Webinar Reflective Action Guide



NOW 2024 Webinar Series

INSTRUCTIONS: Please download this document and take a few minutes to write some initial responses to the following questions

What resonated with you most from today's webinar?	
Which lever of change are you feeling compelled to focus attention on in your work?	
How are you thinking about children, families, and communities in your work differently?	
What 2-3 action steps might you take over the next two months to better uplift and honor the dignity of children, families, and community?	

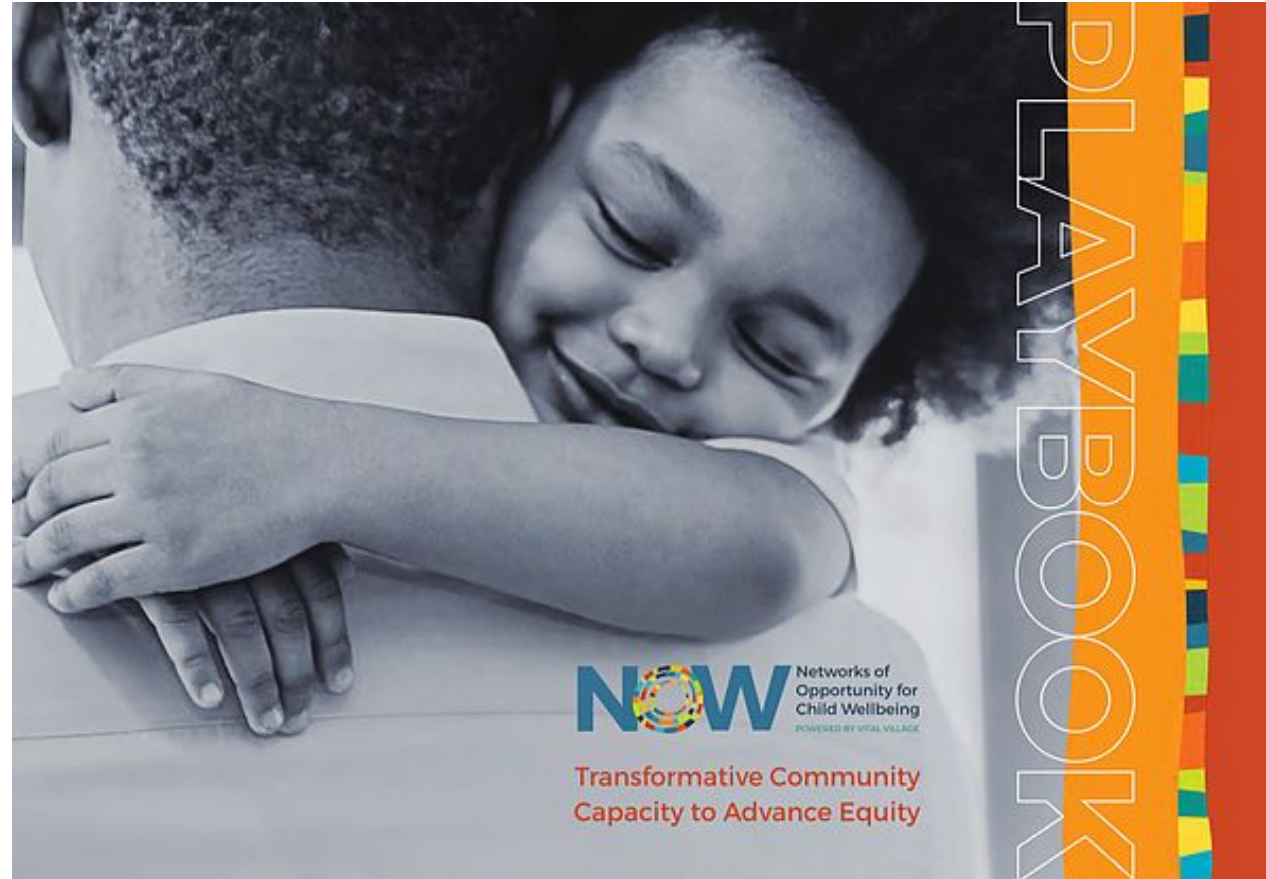
NOW Podcast:
In the Arena with NOW

Season 3 Episodes 1 & 2
now available.
Subscribe and catch-up
on past episodes



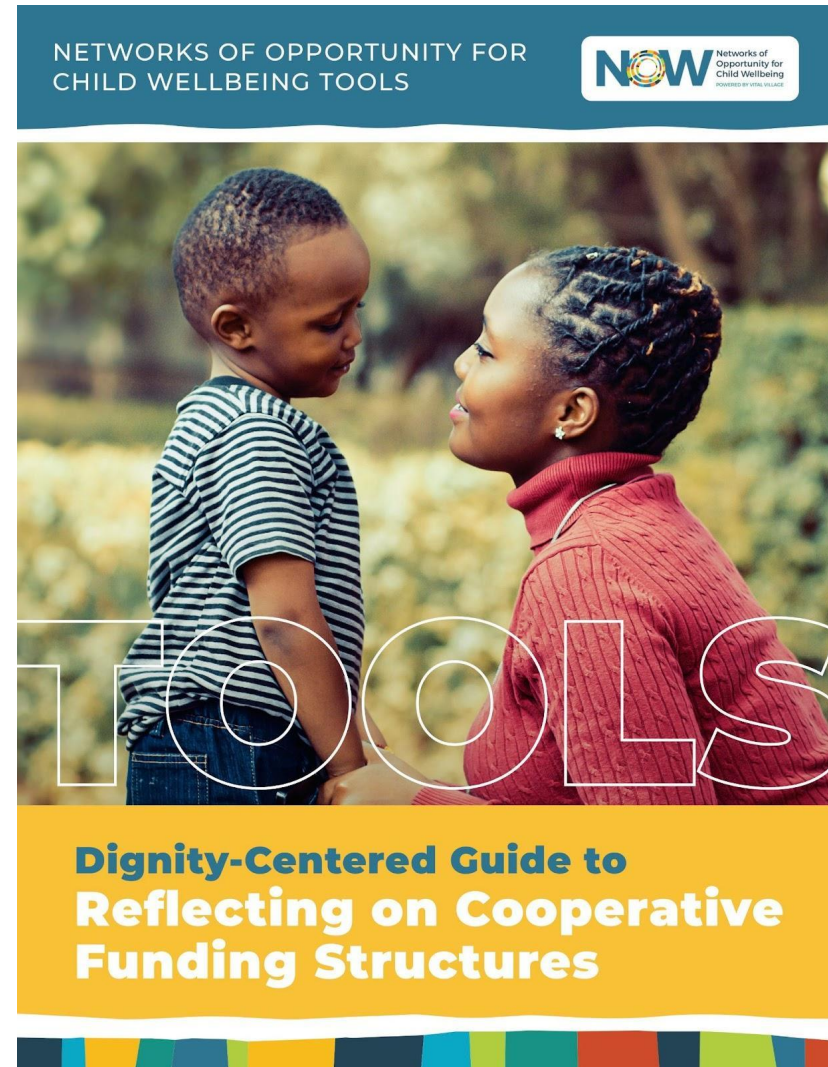
<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/podcast>

NOW Playbook: Transformative Community Capacity to Advance Equity



<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/now-playbook>

A Dignity-Centered Guide to Reflecting on Cooperative Funding Structures



<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/coop-reflection-guide>



Thank You!

<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/>

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