

## **Far Northern Regional Center**

Focus Group - Orland, CA

January 14, 2020

Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) in partnership with North Valley Catholic Social Services, conducted a focus group in Gridley, CA to gain a better understanding of regional center needs within our Latinx clients and their families. The focus groups included a brief presentation about FNRC and a series of open-ended questions for families about regional center services and barriers to receiving services. The format was informal; three families attended this focus group.

The consensus of the group was that they did not feel they had a full understanding of regional center programs and services. They would like to see social recreation programs that would allow them to interact with and socialize with others in their native language, they also discussed the need to offer more services in their area. They felt the service providers were limited in their area and did not like the travel between Chico and Orland. They encouraged the regional center to offer culturally appropriate programs for them. Families also talked about the lack of culturally appropriate staff within the vendors at the regional center. Even if a program was culturally appropriate there is a language and cultural barrier the vendors do not seem to recognize or acknowledge. The group was overall happy with their services and service coordinator with a few stating that they knew very little of what the regional center offered so they couldn't be unhappy.

In an effort to reduce disparity, the Promotores Program was created under the ABX2 grant. The initial grant period is from March 2017 to February 2019, the program was funded for a second round this year from March 2019 to February 2020.