

2026 Engagement Plan

Neighborhood

Elliot Park Neighborhood



Time frame

2026

Work summary

Elliot Park Neighborhood Inc. (EPNI) is committed to ensuring that all residents, especially those historically underrepresented or under-engaged, have equitable opportunities to participate in neighborhood life and decision-making. Our 2026 Equitable Engagement Plan focuses on three primary demographic groups: **seniors and residents with disabilities, low-income residents, and immigrant residents**. These populations collectively represent a significant portion of Elliot Park and are essential to the vitality and inclusivity of our community.

Seniors and Residents with Disabilities (21.5%)

Many of Elliot Park's senior and disabled residents face barriers that limit their participation, including accessibility challenges, transportation limitations, and a reliance on digital communication that not all are comfortable using.

To address these barriers, EPNI will organize daytime and on-site programming such as **Bingo Days, Safety Forums, Neighborhood Night Out, Neighborhood Day, and Health Walks** at accessible community and residential spaces. We will offer **van pickup services** to ensure transportation is not a barrier and will increase outreach through printed materials and direct contact at senior buildings.

These efforts will be supported by partnerships with **Residential Councils, property managers, and direct service providers**. Funding will be allocated for advertising, accessibility needs, and staff coordination time.

Our goal is to **engage at least 50 seniors and disabled residents** throughout the year and foster stronger connections, increased physical activity, and greater inclusion. The intended outcome is a more vibrant neighborhood where seniors and residents with disabilities feel active, valued, and connected to their community.

Low-Income Residents (30%)

Low-income residents often face obstacles related to time, transportation, and awareness of available resources. To reduce these barriers, EPNI will focus on outreach and participation through our **Food Distribution Program, Rental Assistance Program(future), and Mini-Grant Program**.

We will schedule **evening and weekend events** to accommodate working families and provide **incentives** such as meals or stipends to encourage participation. Outreach will be strengthened

through collaborations with **affordable housing providers, resident leaders, and direct service partners.**

EPNI's goal is to **engage at least 25 low-income residents** during 2026, ensuring they are connected to critical resources and have pathways to become active participants in community planning and advocacy. Over time, this will enhance housing stability, build stronger community ties, and increase residents' confidence in engaging with neighborhood processes.

Immigrant Residents (17.8%)

Immigrant residents bring rich cultural diversity to Elliot Park, yet often experience barriers related to **language, cultural differences, and institutional trust.** EPNI aims to build stronger bridges of inclusion and representation through **Civic Engagement Workshops, "Know Your Rights" events, and multicultural gatherings** designed to celebrate and empower immigrant voices.

Our engagement strategies will include **translated materials, interpretation services, and partnerships with residential council leaders and immigrant-led organizations.** EPNI will also co-host events with cultural groups to promote familiarity and trust between residents and neighborhood leadership.

We aim to **engage at least 10 immigrant families** in 2026, focusing on both civic participation and relationship-building. The desired outcome is a neighborhood where immigrant families feel informed, represented, and empowered to contribute to local decisions that shape their community.

Scope of work, outcomes, and goals

Elliot Park Neighborhood Inc. (EPNI) works to build a safe, connected, and equitable Elliot Park neighborhood through community engagement, leadership development, advocacy, and coalition-building. Our scope of work focuses on strengthening community voice, advancing tenants' rights and housing stability, improving safety, and ensuring residents shape decisions that impact their lives.

Scope of Work: EPNI leads neighborhood meetings, events, informs tenant councils, and facilitates coalition convenings. We partner with residents, neighborhood partners, and city leaders to address housing insecurity, substance use impacts, Environmental sustainability, and equitable development. Our approach centers both immediate neighborhood needs and long-term community power-building.

Outcomes: Increase participation of historically under-engaged groups: low-income renters, seniors/disabled residents, and immigrant families. Strengthen trust between residents, service providers, EPNI, and city departments by creating more inclusive, connected neighborhood spaces.

Goals: EPNI's overarching goals are to advance equitable participation by reducing barriers that prevent underrepresented residents from engaging fully in community life, create inclusive spaces where all neighbors feel valued and heard, and strengthen partnerships with resident councils, property managers, cultural organizations, Government bodies, and service providers to expand our collective impact. Through this approach, EPNI aims to build lasting relationships,

ensure all voices are represented in decision-making, and continually refine our engagement strategies based on community feedback and lessons learned.

<i>Demographic group</i>	<i>Seniors/Disability</i>	<i>Low-Income Residents</i>	<i>Immigrant Residents</i>
<i>Numbers or percentage</i>	21.5%	30%	17.8%
<i>Initiative, activity, project or program</i>	Bingo Nights, Safety Forum, Neighborhood Night Out, Neighborhood Day, and Neighborhood Health Walks.	Food Distribution Program, Rental Assistance Program, Mini-Grant Program.	Civic Engagement Workshops, “Know Your Rights” Events, and Community Capacity Building Series.
<i>Barriers to engagement</i>	Limited ADA accessibility, lack of transportation, digital communication gaps, and events scheduled too late in the day.	Work schedules, transportation challenges, and limited awareness of available programs.	Language differences, cultural differences, and limited trust in institutions.
<i>Outreach and engagement strategies</i>	<p>Provide daytime events to accommodate energy levels and safety needs.</p> <p>Offer van pickup and on-site activities at senior buildings.</p> <p>Increase print and in-person outreach instead of relying on digital methods.</p>	<p>Host evening and weekend events to fit residents’ schedules.</p> <p>Offer incentives (such as meals or stipends) for participation.</p> <p>Strengthen outreach through tenant leaders and service partners.</p>	<p>Provide interpretation and translated materials.</p> <p>Collaborate with residential council leaders from immigrant communities.</p> <p>Co-host events with cultural organizations to build trust and familiarity.</p>
<i>Resources needed</i>	Accessible van, advertising funds, and staff time for coordination.	Event funding, staff coordination	Translation and interpretation services, outreach staff (Tenant

		time, outreach materials.	Organizer), and partnership funding.
<i>Partners in the work</i>	Residential Councils, property managers, and direct service providers.	Direct service organizations, MPRB, City of Minneapolis, affordable housing providers, and community volunteers.	Immigrant community leaders, interpreters, MPRB, City of Minneapolis, tenant councils, and cultural organizations.
<i>Person(s) responsible</i>	EPNI Staff	EPNI Staff	EPNI Staff
<i>Timeline</i>	January – December 2026	January – December 2026	January – December 2026
<i>Quantitative goals</i>	Increase engagement of senior residents.	Increase engagement of low-income residents.	Increase engagement of immigrant families.
<i>Qualitative goals</i>	Increase social connection, improve health outcomes, and foster a more vibrant, visible senior presence in the neighborhood.	Strengthen connections to resources and create pathways for participation in community decisions.	Foster inclusion in civic processes and strengthen relationships between immigrant residents and neighborhood leadership.
<i>Outcome of engagement</i>	A stronger sense of belonging and community among senior and disabled residents, contributing to a more vibrant neighborhood culture.	Residents are more connected to resources, leading to greater housing stability and neighborhood engagement.	Immigrant families feel represented and empowered to participate in local decision-making, building a more inclusive and equitable neighborhood.