



## Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Changing Populations

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Goal #	What successes have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the past year
CP-1A&B	<b>Rural Transportation.</b> Have completed a draft report on what currently exists in the five county region and what models we are seeing elsewhere for addressing the transportation needs of those who cannot drive themselves.
CP-2	<b>Preventative Health.</b> We know that seniors want to remain independent and in their own Homes. We believe that one of the best ways to achieve this is seniors staying healthy. We Continue to track the progress of the Health Theme in this area and are preparing for getting a consistent healthy living message out to our partners that work with aging populations, making sure that whatever is developed makes sense for seniors.
CP-3 A,B,C	<b>The Central Lakes College Race Equity and Excellence in Education Team</b> in collaboration with Minnesota Minority Education Partnership has moved forward in the Mille Lacs community working with school Districts and community members. The group has entered into phase II or III, now developing an equity plan to increase reading and math proficiency, decrease absences and discipline rates and increase graduation rates of students of color AND all students. The group will host a Summit in February to roll out and then implement the plan. A resolution of support has been received to begin this process in the Brainerd School District, though due to budget reductions this has not been carried out at this point.  This work has been recognized by Minnesota State Colleges and University Leadership as a best practice Walker School District Staff will be trained in Race Equity and Education by CLC in January We are exploring funding opportunities to complete the work in the Brainerd school district.

Goal #	What are you excited about around your theme for the coming year?
CP-1A&B	<b>Finalize the Rural Transportation Report and convene a workshop for the five county region</b> in partnership with the Transportation Theme to explore options to improve our transportation for those who cannot drive themselves. Consider opportunities for organizations, communities and counties to work cooperatively on this issue.
CP-2	<b>Working with our Healthcare Theme partners on the next steps of promoting preventative health</b> with our senior and ethnic populations.
CP-3 A,B,C	<b>Implementation of Phase III of Central Lakes College Race Equity and Excellence in Education in the Mille Lacs area.</b> Secure funding and complete phases II and III in the Brainerd School District

# Changing Populations

## Changing Populations Issues

**Changing populations:** As our future workforce shrinks and ages, it is important that every citizen has the skills necessary to be productive, valued, and self-reliant, rather than dependent on society. Ethnic diversity will continue to grow and expand from existing clusters that are now mostly associated with areas of food processing jobs and will be an important source of future workforce growth. The region's aging population impacts every area for which we are planning. Housing, transportation, land use, and the current and future workforce will all be affected by the age of our population.

## Changing Populations Goal

**Changing populations:** As the region's population changes, make adjustments to meet the need and seize the opportunities these changes present.

## Recommendation 1

***Public transit:*** Focus on developing low-cost, reasonable access to transit service for communities, specifically to serve the aging population.

### Action Step A

**Map transit system and identify gaps:** Examine current data to map the region's existing and planned public transit system. Identify gaps in the systems and seek opportunities to provide appropriate forms of public transit for the region's existing density pattern and that will support independence and self-reliance to the extent possible.

### Action Step B

**Funding:** Work with county, state and federal transportation organizations to pursue funding for Public Transit and get regional needs on their plans. Consider the ability of some parts of the aging population to contribute toward the cost of these systems as they utilize them

## Recommendation 2

***Housing support services:*** Provide housing support services to the elderly and mentally ill that would allow them the option of remaining as independent as possible under their circumstances.

### Action Step A

**Map services and identify gaps:** Map existing services for elderly and mentally ill individuals throughout the region. Identify any gaps in housing support services for the elderly and mentally ill populations.

### Action Step B

**Collaborate:** Bring together organizations with an interest in these areas to collectively plan how to meet identified support service needs.

### Recommendation 3

***Diverse workforce:*** As our population becomes more diverse and the need for new workers increases, the region must offer services and opportunities to welcome newcomers into our communities and workforce.

#### **Action Step A**

**Identify changes:** Use data to track and identify areas in the region where newcomers are commonly locating.

#### **Action Step B**

**Map services:** Research and map existing and planned services for newcomers in areas where they live and/or tend to be locating.

#### **Action Step C**

**Identify and address service gaps:** Collaborate with local governments, schools, nonprofits, churches, and local businesses to identify and address gaps in services needed to incorporate newcomers into the social and work fabric of the region.

### Recommendation 4

***Older workers:*** As the workforce in the region grows and many older workers need to continue working longer for financial reasons, or for personal satisfaction, the region will need to offer opportunities and services to update the skills of older workers.

#### **Action Step A**

**Identify and address skills gaps:** Work with local and regional businesses to identify the gaps between the existing skills of older workers and the skills they will need to be productive workers in today's world. Support the efforts of local and regional educational organizations and businesses as they work together to address older workers' skill gaps in a way that is effective and timely

#### **Action Step B**

**Funding:** Gain and coordinate local support and advocate with federal elected officials to increase funding levels for effective programs for older workers.