**Focus Group Guide**

Thank you for taking the time to talk with us today. Your thoughts and experiences are valuable as we learn what community resources bring protection, support, and joy to [INSERT FOCAL POPULATION]. Your responses from this discussion can help efforts to expand these resources to similar communities to support their well-being.

Before we start the activities, I want to review the informed consent document to explain your rights as a participant. Please follow along using your copy of the document. I will pause for any questions or comments you may have.

\**Review informed consent with participants—do not read verbatim but explain each section. Ask participants to indicate their consent to participate in the study and to have their voices used in research products by raising their hand or staying in the room and participating in the activity. If participants do not want their voices included in research products, have them add “no voice” to their demographic surveys. Be sure that consent has been received before proceeding.*

It may be helpful to define a few terms before we begin.

* You will hear me say ‘protective community resources’ several times. Protective community resources can be a person (e.g., a current or previous teacher, neighbor, or mentor), place (e.g., church, park, or local hangout), or thing (e.g., your neighborhood’s culture or your child’s relationships with peers and friends) that promote well-being. As we are discussing these resources in the context of the community, these resources you mention should exist outside of the home and not include relationships with nuclear family members.
* Definitions of “community” vary. For today’s conversation, think of “community” as what you consider to be your neighborhood and the local people, places, and things with which you regularly engage.

We will have about two hours together. First, I will ask you to complete a demographic survey to help the research team to better understand today’s conversation. I anticipate this may take about 5 minutes to complete. Next, I will facilitate a mapping activity in which I will ask you to draw a map of the people, places, and things in your community that you believe are protective for the well-being of [INSERT FOCAL POPULATION]. I anticipate that this may take about 10 minutes to complete. Thereafter, I will ask you to add and label elements that you believe would be protective for the well-being of [INSERT FOCAL POPULATION] that are *not* currently a part of your community with the letter “W.” I will give you 10 minutes for this section. Lastly, I ask that you take 5 minutes to label the elements on your map that have fostered joy. Label them with the letter “J.” At each of the three points of this mapping activity, I will ask that you share your drawings with the group for a 20-minute discussion.

I will audio record the meeting, and with your permission, use audio recordings in future projects. I will also collect all drawings for scanning and use in future projects that may benefit from understanding [INSERT FOCAL POPULATION].

Please note that there are no right or wrong answers, as we are interested in your personal experiences with the resources in your community. Participating in the study is completely voluntary. You do not have to participate in the study if you do not want to. As a reminder, you may choose not to participate in certain sections of the mapping activity or decide to leave this study at any time. Deciding to leave this study will not affect the receipt of incentives or your relationship with [INSERT HOST ORGANIZATION]. Do you have any questions before we begin?

Great--let’s begin.

**Demographic Survey**

*The facilitator will read through each question as participants complete the survey.*

Please take a few moments to complete the demographic survey. By answering some questions about yourself, it will help the research team to better understand the findings. You may choose to complete the survey using the link provided or by completing a paper copy of the survey. You may skip questions that you are not comfortable answering. As a reminder, this survey is confidential and anonymous. Your identity will never be revealed to others.

**Part 1: Protective Community Resources**

Think through your own experiences, please draw a map and name the elements in your community that you believe are protective for [INSERT FOCAL POPULATION]. You will have 10 minutes to complete this section. As a reminder, protective community resources are people, places, or things that promote well-being. After you have completed this section, we will hold 20 minutes for sharing and discussion.

Probing questions:

* Please share what you have included on your map. What elements did you choose to add to your map? Why?
  + *Probe for experiences with neighborhood amenities, services, and supports, in-person and virtual peers, mentors and role models, and/or schools.*
* In what ways do these elements benefit [INSERT FOCAL POPULATION]?
  + *Probe for benefits related to physical and mental health, educational experiences and outcomes, and economic well-being.*
* Share a brief story of how these elements served as protective.

**Part 2: Missing Community Resources**

Please add and label elements that you would like to have in your community that are *not* part of your community with the letter “W.” You will have 10 minutes to complete this section. After you have completed this section, we will hold 20 minutes for discussion.

Probing questions:

* What missing elements did you choose to add to your map? Why?
* In what ways might these missing elements benefit [INSERT FOCAL POPULATION] if they were present in your community?
  + *Probe for benefits related to physical and mental health, educational experiences and outcomes, and economic well-being.*

**Part 3: Resources that Spark Joy**

Please label the elements on your map that have brought you joy with the letter “J.” You will have 5 minutes to complete this section. After you have completed this section, we will hold 20 minutes for discussion.

Probing questions:

* What element(s) did you label with a “J” on your map?
* In what ways do these elements foster joy?
  + *Probe for benefits related to physical and mental health, educational experiences and outcomes, and economic well-being.*
* Share a story about the joy you experienced through one of the resources you selected.

We have reached the end of our time together. Before we close, we would like to pause for reflections. If you had to recommend three protective community places that you would like us to tour or highlight, which would you choose? Please use this moment to share any final thoughts on the protective elements of your community, elements that you noted as missing, and elements that sparked joy.

Thank you for your participation in the mapping activity and group discussion. Your insights hold value as we explore protective community resources and their positive influence on the well-being of [INSERT FOCAL POPULATION]. This has been a safe place to discuss protective community resources. As we leave this room, please respect the confidentiality of the group and the privacy of all group members. If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact [INSERT NAME OF SESSION FACILITATOR OR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR] at [INSERT EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER].