WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Aidah,  
Muslim Community Center
1-1 Reflection Questions

- In the last six months of your organizing, what are you most proud of?
- What are you looking forward to do in the next six months?
What is the American Dream?
How do we reach our American Dream?
THE SUCCESS MYTH:
IN THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY, AMERICANS CAN TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY

American Dream
THE FAILURE MYTH

American Dream?
Result is Focus on the Individual

People feel 100% personally responsible for their struggles

Shame & Silence
UNSEEN: PUBLIC DECISIONS HAVE CREATED OPPORTUNITY

Unions

Pathway to Citizenship

Medicare/Medicaid

Millennium Scholarship

Immigrant Rights Movement
UNSEEN: PUBLIC DECISIONS HAVE RESTRICTED OPPORTUNITY

- Bank Deregulation = Predatory Lending = Loss of my parents home/wealth
- Poor investment in public education
- Long, expensive & limited pathway to citizenship
- Anti-immigrant laws
Case Studies

- Imam Abu Qadir Al-Almin
- Rev. Gloria del Castillo
Practice & Sharing

- 10 minutes to write your own American Dream Story
- 30 minutes in small groups to practice sharing your story
Lunch Time!
Public decisions that **denied** you access to opportunity

American Dream

Public decisions that **gave** you access to opportunity
Las decisiones públicas que le niego el acceso a las oportunidades

Sueño Americano

Las decisiones públicas que le dieron el acceso a las oportunidades