

Toward Healthy Welcoming Communities: Newcomer Youth and Parents Speak Out

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Youth Leaders

- David Moreno
- Ileana Gonzalez
- Jing Ji
- Milan Kaur

Partnership

- University-Community Partnership
- South London Neighborhood Resource Centre and Western University
- Purpose is Community Capacity Building
- Focus on the Youth
- Community-Driven process

Literature

- 22% of London population is foreign born (28% of Ontario population is foreign born)
- Skilled newcomers are innovators, provide links to new markets, as well as improve diversity and financial competitiveness
- Youth are valuable assets to cities that need future political and business leaders, as well as professionals, citizens and parents for the next generation
- Limited research on the qualities of a healthy welcoming community from the perspectives of newcomer youth

Methodology

- Youth Advisory Group
 - what are likes, dislikes and changes needed?
 - for youth in school, home and community
 - parent and youth perspectives
 - offer childcare for participants
 - Neighborhood Centre Location
 - chance for food and conversation
- Community Meeting (June, 2012)
 - What are the issues?
- Community Meeting (November, 2012)
 - What are the priorities?

Healthy Welcoming Communities Created by Newcomer Youth

**YOU are INVITED to a Meeting to participate
in a Research Study about:
NEWCOMER YOUTH, their FAMILIES and COMMUNITY**

**South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre (1119 Jalna Blvd.)
Saturday, June 2, 2012
(10:30 am - 1:30 pm)**

We would like to know your opinion about:

- What is working well and,**
- What improvements could be made at home, in schools and within the neighbourhood.**

There will be separate meetings for (1) Newcomer Youth (2) Newcomer Youth Parents

To register please contact your School Settlement Worker

Shadya 519-697-6106 and Lissette 519-701-6549

Questions? Please contact Jason Brown at Western University

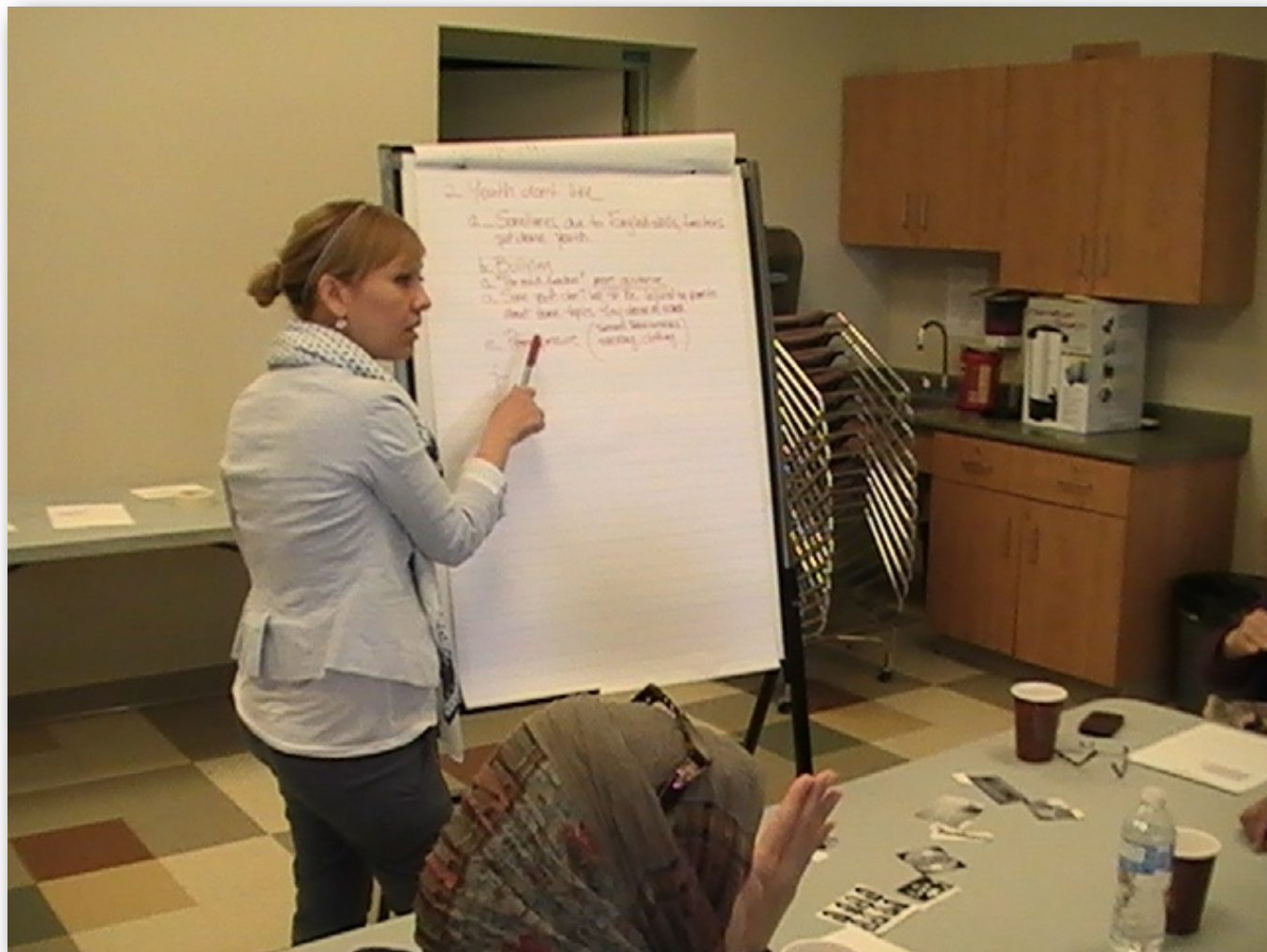
jbrown97@uwo.ca Phone 519-661-2111 Ext 88617



**Western
Education**

Participants

- June Meeting n=42
- November Meeting n=32
- parents - men and women, 38-49 years, 1-5 children, residing in White Oaks/Highland/Westmount, speak Spanish/Arabic/English, moved from Columbia/Guatemala/Iraq/Saudi Arabia/Libya/UAE
- youth - men and women, 15-17 years, grades 9-12, from 1 month - 2 years in Canadian school, residing in Westmount/White Oaks, speak Punjabi/Assyrian/Arabic/Spanish/English, moved from Singapore/Syria/Columbia/Iraq/UAE



Parent Experiences

parents liked the experience of meetings

educational and supportive

felt less alone after shared concerns with other parents

Parents: What do you want for youth at home?

- outside the home
 - to be social
 - not to be shy
 - to be open with friends and other youth
- inside the home
 - open communication with parents
 - to be close to family
 - speak their first language

Parents: What do you like about your youth's school?

- multicultural
 - different cultures in the school
 - school has a good atmosphere
- extra activities
 - field trips
 - variety of activities
- communication styles
 - teachers do not humiliate to discipline
 - friendly and respectful teachers

Parents: What don't you like about your youth's school?

- discrimination
 - differences between those who follow and those who do not follow traditions in same ethnic community
- slow progress and heavy workload
 - difficulty passing ESL program
- no credit for courses previously completed
 - need courses from home country accepted for university

Parents: What would help youth at school?

- learning help
 - need to know about how the system works
 - school settlement workers
- communication
 - between youth and parents
 - between parents and teachers
- home environment
 - place for homework
 - encouraging

Parents: What do you like about the community for youth?

- services
 - Community Centre
 - schools
 - malls
- people
 - friends
 - others from same culture

Parents: What don't you like about the community for youth?

- safety
 - youth hanging out
 - at night
- drugs
 - worry about youth and drugs

Parents: What would help youth in the community?

- opportunities for youth from same culture to interact and learn culture
 - learn home language
 - meet with other students
- activities across cultures within the community
 - students meeting to support each other
 - neighborhood-based sports teams

Youth Experiences

Youth: What do you like about school?

- freedom
- teachers who help
- different cultures
- range of opportunities
- learning support

Youth: What don't you like about school?

- teachers who don't understand newcomers
- learning difficulties
- system is complicated
- behavior of some students
- difficulty fitting in

Youth: What would help you at school?

- make it more than just about education
- specific resources for newcomer youth
- more language services

Youth: What do you like about home?

- comfortable
- routines
- consistency
- personal space
- earn privileges

Youth: What don't you like about home?

- too many rules
- parents emphasize school too much
- feel different than others when not at home

Youth: What would help you at home?

- more positive feedback
- more talking
- opening my home to my friends

Youth: What do you like about your community?

- community organizations
- others from the same culture as me
- not dangerous

Youth: What don't you like about your community?

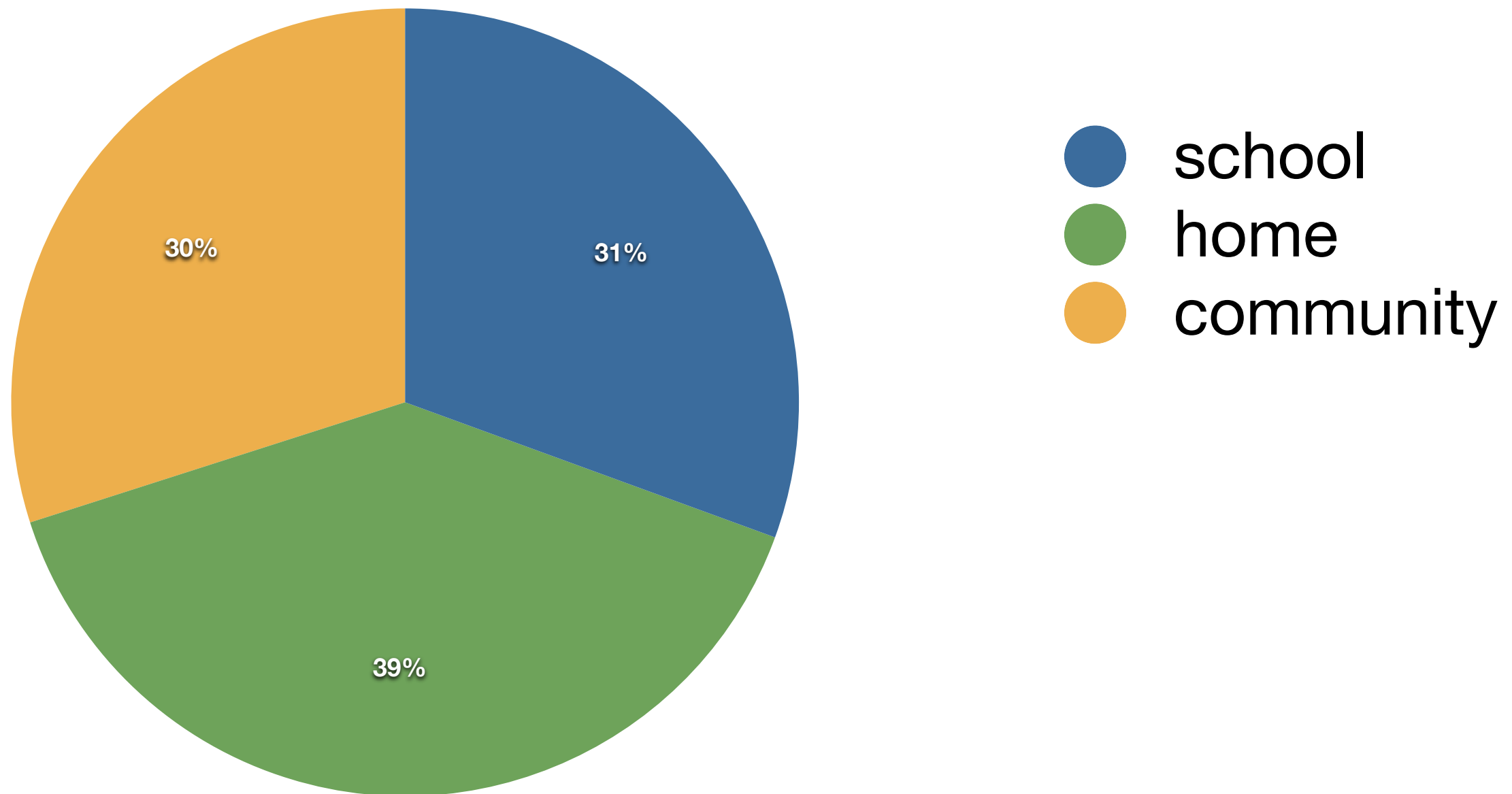
- not enough to do
- can't afford to bring more family to Canada
- discrimination between and within cultures

Youth: What would help you in your community?

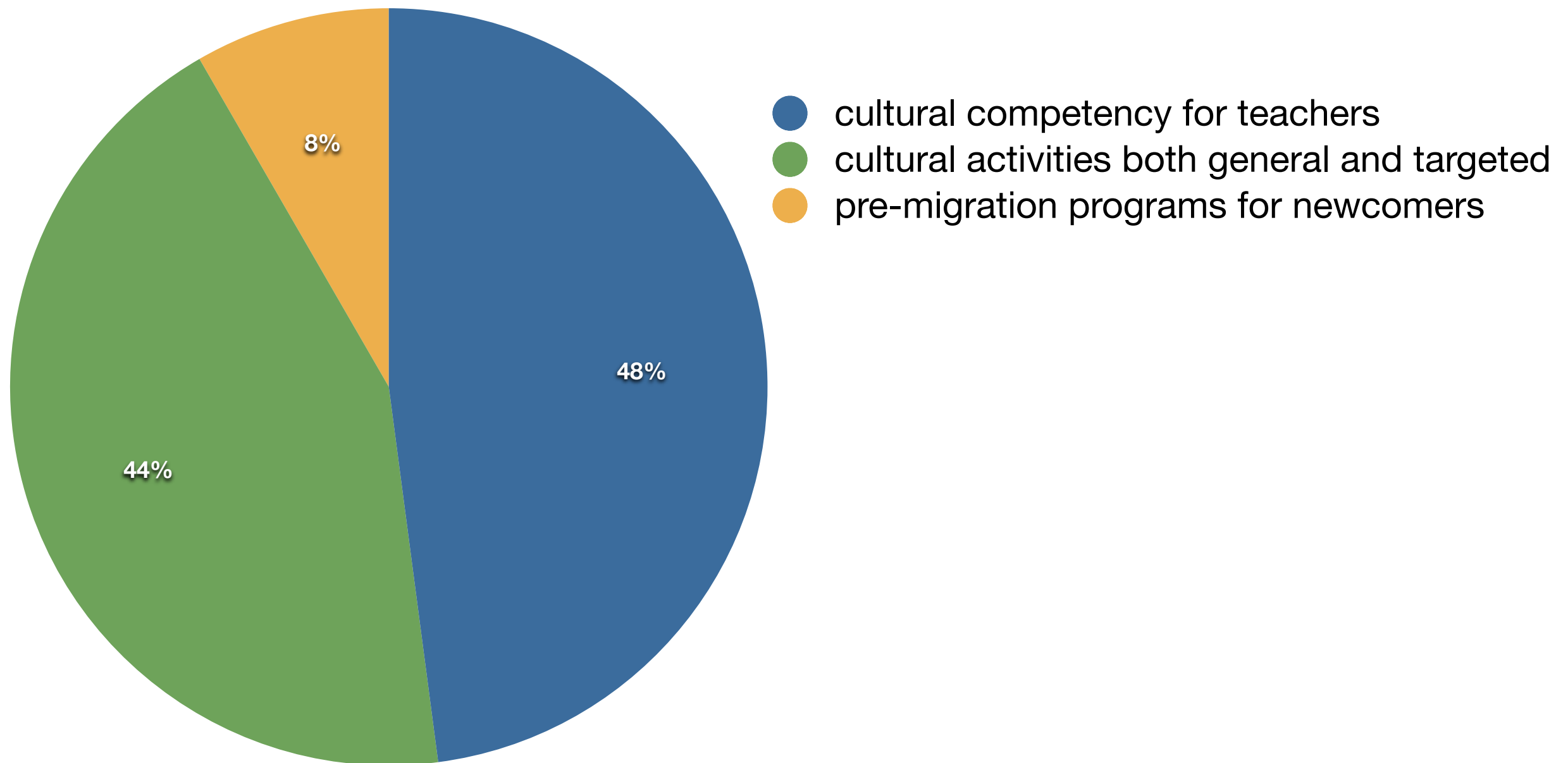
- more life skills programs
- mentoring programs for newcomers to get positive influences
- sports programs
- awareness for people to understand the changes newcomers go through

Priority Setting: Youth and Parents Together

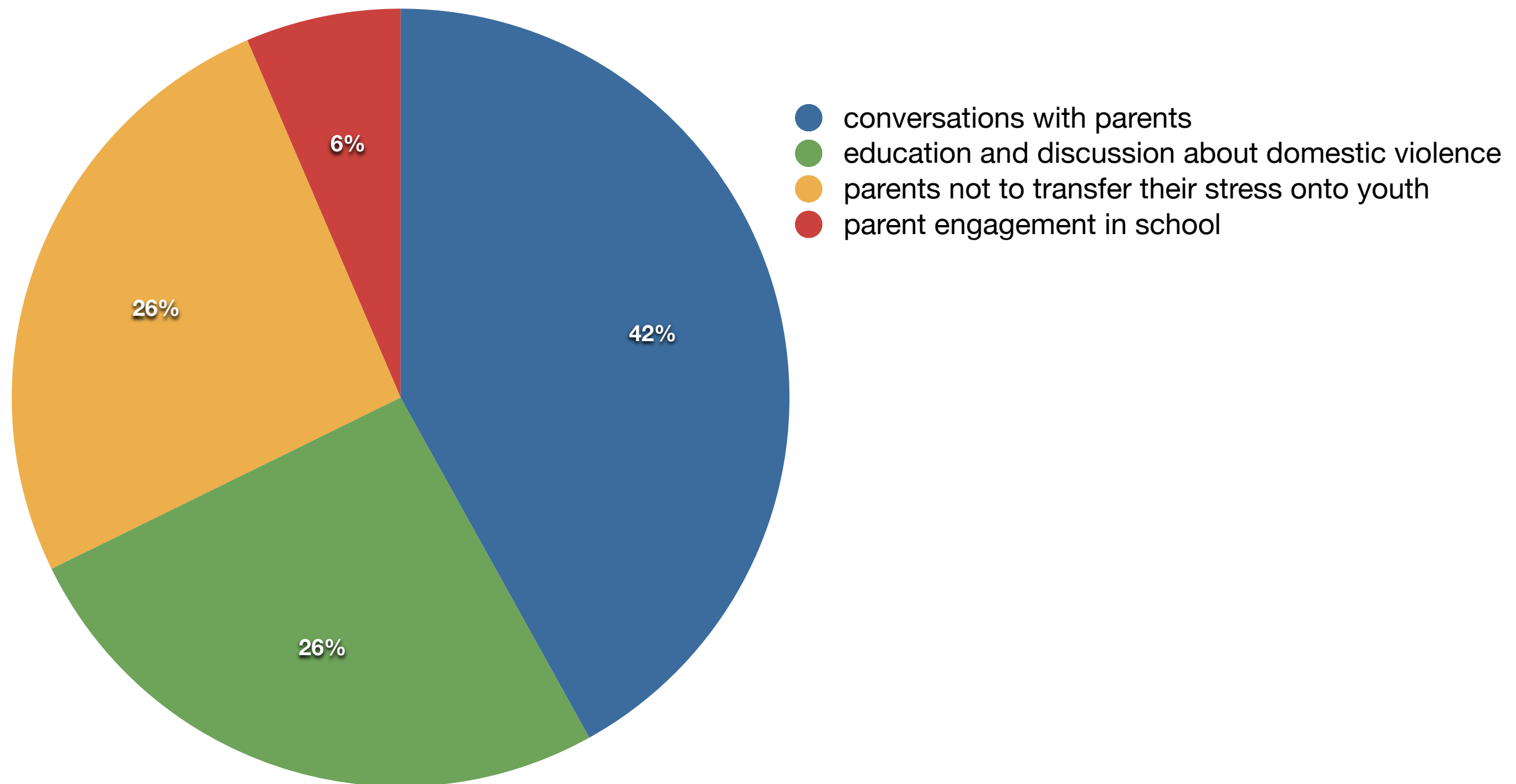
Priority placed by Youth and Parents on School, Home and Community



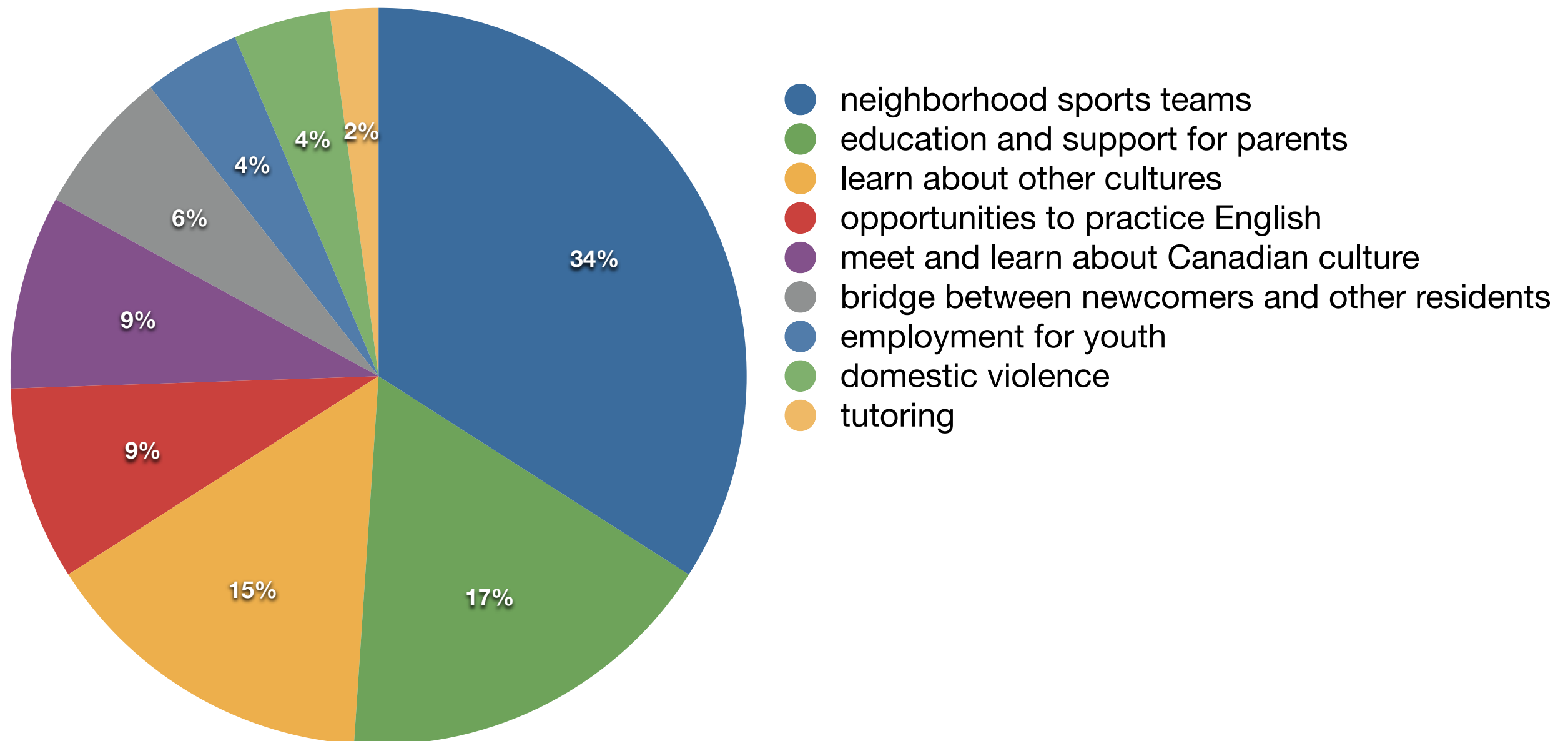
What are the priorities for Youth and Parents in School?



What are the priorities for Youth and Parents at home?



What are the priorities for Youth and Parents in the community?



Next Steps

- Deepen University - Community Partnership
 - Implementing Cross-Cultural Counselling Course
- Continue with Research
 - Working on Next Project
- Community Capacity Building
 - Working with Youth Advisory Group