



Want to learn valuable skills to help your community move beyond impasse and achieve concrete action to address issues?

Consider becoming trained as a facilitator in the:
Civic Engagement Facilitator Training:
Moving from Dialogue to Collaborative Action

Join Essential Partners, Welcoming America, Conflict Education Consultants, and League of Women Voters of the Akron Area and Hudson, for a unique opportunity to be on the forefront of a new statewide initiative to build capacity for local leaders in dialogue, conflict management and collaborative problem solving to help bridge local political divides, strengthen relationships and take concrete community action to address local issues. (Additional information about the partners is located below).

THE NEED

In this increasingly polarized time when it seems like nothing can be accomplished without shouting matches, we can offer a ray of hope. It is possible to hold on to our deeply held values *and* work together respectfully even when we disagree. This series of trainings provide communities and local leaders with a set of skills and tools for communication and problem solving that promote listening, relationship building and collaboration across differences in ideologies and identities. We seek to inspire a new culture of courageous conversation: to create a new sense of what must be done when difficulties arise, so that communities revert to intentional and connective discourse to address the root cause of the issues at hand.

Join us for a unique opportunity to be on the forefront of a new statewide initiative to build capacity for local leaders in dialogue, conflict management and collaborative problem solving to help bridge local political divides, strengthen relationships and take concrete community action to address local issues.

EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF ISSUES

The following are a list of examples of types of issues that your community may decide to work on. They include, but are not limited to:

- Water quality
- Environmental issues
- Gun safety
- Community violence issues
- Immigration
- Land usage
- Health care

WHO SHOULD APPLY

This **highly competitive** opportunity is for community members who are representative of the diversity, of varied ideologies and identities, in the community and who have the ability/platform to convene regular groups around topics of concern in their community including but not limited to:

- City and Local Government Officials
- League of Women Voters Members
- Community Leaders Associated with Formal and Grassroots Organizations
- College and University Leadership (may include faculty, staff, administrators, students)

SELECTING TEAM MEMBERS

- A minimum of two team members are needed to participate in the process.
- Up to four team members will be selected from the same organization.
- All potential team members must complete and submit the application for review. Not all team members may be selected.
- If including college/university students on the team, they must plan on still being enrolled at the college or university during the 2018-2019 term. If including undergraduate students, consider Sophomores or Juniors.

COSTS

These fees will be collected if your application and team is accepted, and will need to be paid in full before the training begins.

- \$60 per person for team members from host organizations, Sinclair Community College, Case Western Reserve University, League of Women Voters Akron Area, League of Women Voters Hudson, for the 6 days of facilitator training, project planning, and technical assistance
- \$210 per person for team members that are from non-profits/community organizations and college/university student team members for the 6 days of facilitator training, project planning, and technical assistance
- \$310 per person for team members that are city/local/state government officials and college/university faculty/staff/administrators for the 6 days of facilitator training, project planning, and technical assistance

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO BE ON MY TEAM?

Consider individuals from your organization who:

- Are able to and/or authorized by a supervisor to be able to plan, organize, and begin a dialogue project on a topic of importance to their community in the next 6 months.
- Are able to work well with others.
- Are respected within the organization and in the community.
- Are representative of diverse beliefs and perspectives on topics such as religion and politics.
- Are able to commit to the required 6 days of training in their entirety and follow-up.
- Are able to communicate and interact with project directors over the course of the year, one group call per month, with 1:1 coaching available to share feedback on the stage of their plans/efforts.
- Have:
 - a) Excellent interpersonal skills
 - b) Strong organizational skills
 - c) A strong commitment to civic/community engagement and service

TRAINING OVERVIEW

Year-Long Process Time-line (participation in all components is required for participation)

- Attend a two-day (8:30AM – 4:30PM) ***Conflict Management for Collaborative Decision Making*** training and leave with a plan to utilize newly learned skills within your community (Select from dates in September/October)
- Work with colleagues and the Training Team to identify projects for program (month 2- 3: October-November)
- Attend a two-day (8:30AM – 4:30PM) ***Facilitated Dialogue*** training and leave with a plan to incorporate dialogue into current work (January/February)
- Practice using dialogue in community and participate in project webinars and technical support calls.
- Attend a two-day (8:30AM – 4:30PM) ***Achieving Collaborative Action*** training and leave with a concrete plan to implement that plan in your community (March/April)
- Commit to implementing the team action plan over the course of the year, following the Achieving Collaborative Action training. This implementation of the plan will include a series of dialogue to action sessions (number to be determined during the planning session) with the stakeholders selected for that key issue in the community.
- Receive ongoing technical support from Essential Partners/Conflict Education Consultants Team as you launch and facilitate dialogue projects in your communities (March – September – or last 6-9 months of the year of this project)

Skills gained from participation in this project:

- Recognizing signs of polarization and dynamics of conflict
- Ability to take different perspectives
- Active listening
- Appreciating diversity and understanding different experiences
- Community mapping and participatory planning and preparation
- Using structure, reflection and agreements in meeting design to achieve established purposes
- Collaborative Decision Making
- Operationalizing action plans

Skills Participants Will Receive During the Required Three Trainings:

1. Conflict Management for Collaborative Decision Making Skills Training (16 hours)
 - Understanding the nature of conflict, managing emotions, de-escalating conflict, verbal and non-verbal communication skills, conflict styles, etc.
2. Facilitated Dialogue Training (16 hours)
 - Learn effective skills to work in the midst of deep division to arrive at shared purpose, effective planning, intentional structure, and compelling questions to break entrenched dynamics of communication and replace them with reflection, deep listening, and effective sharing to build trust and relationship as the groundwork for collaborative action.
3. Achieving Collaborative Action Training (16 hours)
 - Learn how to tie the skills for collaboration, dialogue into a formal model for decision making with all key stakeholders. Leave with a concrete action plan to implement in your community.

TRAINING OPTIONS

Selected participants/teams are able to select a region to attend the three required trainings in their entirety: 1) Conflict Management for Collaborative Decision Making; 2) Facilitated Dialogue; AND 3) Achieving Collaborative Action. Select one region under each of the three listed trainings below. Select EITHER Northeast, Central, or Southwest. The entire team must participate in the same training in the same region.

1) First Training (Must select one set of dates) - *Conflict Management for Collaborative Decision Making* (2 days/16 hours)

- Thursday, Friday October 6 - 7, Location: Columbus, Ohio
- Thursday, Friday October 12 - 13, Location: Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- Saturday/Sunday October 28 – 29, Location: Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio

2) Second Training (Must select one set of dates) - *Facilitated Dialogue (2 days/16 hours)*

- Friday/Saturday January 12-13, Location: Columbus, Ohio
- Thursday/Friday January 25 – 26, Location: Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- Friday/Saturday February 16-17, Location: Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio

3) Third Training (Must select one set of dates) - *Achieving Collaborative Action (2 days/16 hours)*

- Thursday/Friday March 15-16, Location: Columbus, Ohio
- Friday/Saturday March 22 - 23, Location: Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- Saturday/Sunday April 7-8, Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio

INITIATIVE PARTNERS

Essential Partners

Founded in 1989 as the Public Conversations Project, Essential Partners’ mission is to foster constructive conversations where conflicts are driven by deep differences in identity, beliefs, and worldview. Using our signature approach, *Reflective Structured Dialogue (RSD)*, we help communities develop the trust needed for the constructive engagement of differences. RSD is a framework for courageous conversation rooted in family systems therapy, appreciative inquiry, and social constructionism. Its practice has helped communities to strengthen individual and group resilience in the face of division; to rehumanize “the other” by drawing back stereotypes, blaming, and judgment; to shift relationships toward civility and coexistence; to enhance mutual understanding; and to build capacity for civil conversations about complex, divisive issues by training local leaders as facilitators. More at www.whatisessential.org

Welcoming America

A growing number of places recognize that being welcoming leads to prosperity. Welcoming America provides the roadmap and support they need to become more inclusive toward immigrants and all residents. Launched in 2009, Welcoming America has spurred a growing movement across the United States, with one in eight Americans living in a Welcoming Community. Our award-winning, social entrepreneurship model is beginning to scale globally. Just as fertile soil is needed for a seed to grow, welcoming communities foster a culture and policy environment that makes it possible for newcomers of all backgrounds to feel valued and to fully participate alongside their neighbors in the social, civic, and economic fabric of their adopted hometowns. More at www.welcomingamerica.org

Conflict Education Consultants builds the capacity for individuals and organizations to effectively manage and address conflict and differences in the classroom, within educational institutions and in the greater community. They have 27 years of experience working with over 600 schools, 73 colleges/universities, and hundreds of government agencies and non-profits across the U.S. and in 22 countries around the globe. More at: <https://www.conflicteducationconsultants.com/>

League of Women Voters Hudson (Ohio) is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government, influencing public policy through education and advocacy. More at: <http://lwvhudsonohio.org/>

League of Women Voters Akron Area (Ohio) is a local chapter in Ohio of the nation’s largest, most respected grassroots citizen’s organization, the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization, working to improve our democracy since 1920. More at: <http://www.lwvaa.org/>

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Jennifer Batton, Conflict Education Consultants, at 216-952-5609 or by email at conflicteducationconsultants@gmail.com

Application deadline Thursday, September 21, 2017

Please refer to one of the following to apply:

- PDF - Ohio Civic Engagement Facilitator Training Application – attached in e-mail
- Online form at <https://goo.gl/forms/Pch0oP1ek95dc66B3>

Please note: Late applications will NOT be accepted.

If using the PDF, submit via e-mail to: conflicteducationconsultants@gmail.com

If submitting via on-line form: <https://goo.gl/forms/Pch0oP1ek95dc66B3>

General Questions? Please contact Jen Batton at 216-952-5609