



INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Roster of Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance Organizations

The Public Engagement program provides information and resources to help local officials in California make good decisions about the design and use of public engagement in their cities and counties. Publications, workshop sessions, a website, and on-site assistance are available to help local officials navigate among the various public involvement approaches and to craft an approach that will result in real and effective outcomes. The Institute for Local Government is the nonprofit research arm of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties.

Alliance for Regional Stewardship

(<http://www.acce.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=ARS&category=ARS&submenu=ARS>)

The Alliance for Regional Stewardship (ARS) is a national, peer-to-peer network of regional stewards who benefit by sharing experiences and working collaboratively on innovative approaches to common regional challenges.

America Speaks

(<http://americaspeaks.org/>)

AmericaSpeaks is a non-profit organization that engages citizens in public decisions using innovative deliberative tools including large scale town halls supported by keypad polling, groupware computers and web or satellite linked meetings in multiple cities.

Asset Based Community Development Institute»

(<http://www.abcdinstitute.org/>)

Based at Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research, the ABCD Institute produces practical resources and tools for community builders to identify, nurture, and mobilize neighborhood assets.

Center for Civic Partnerships

(<http://www.civicpartnerships.org/>)

The Center for Civic Partnerships is a support organization that strengthens individuals, organizations, and communities by facilitating learning, leadership development, and networking. Tools, tip sheets and publications for creating healthy communities are available on the website.

Center for Collaborative Policy

(<http://www.csus.edu/ccp/>)

The Center for Collaborative Policy is a joint program of California State University, Sacramento and the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific. The mission of the Center is to build the capacity of public agencies, stakeholder groups, and the public to use collaborative strategies to improve policy outcomes.

Center for Deliberative Democracy

[\(http://cdd.stanford.edu/\)](http://cdd.stanford.edu/)

The Center for Deliberative Democracy, housed in the Department of Communication at Stanford University, is devoted to research and practice in the area of Deliberative Polling.

The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement

[\(http://www.civicyouth.org/\)](http://www.civicyouth.org/)

CIRCLE conducts, collects, and funds research on the civic and political participation of young Americans aged 15 -25. CIRCLE is based in the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy and serves as a clearinghouse for relevant information and scholarship concerning young people's engagement in politics and civic life. The website contains tools for practice, research and grant information.

Civic Practices Network

[\(http://www.cpn.org/topics/community/index.html\)](http://www.cpn.org/topics/community/index.html)

Civic Practices Network (CPN) is a collaborative and nonpartisan project bringing together a diverse array of organizations and perspectives within the civic renewal movement. The web site offers a variety of tools, guides, case studies and research related to community engagement.

Collaborative Democracy Network

[\(http://www.csus.edu/ccp/cdn/\)](http://www.csus.edu/ccp/cdn/)

A network of over 70 interdisciplinary and international scholars established to focus on the need to enhance the role of deliberative and collaborative methods in democratic governance. The goal of the network is to collaborate on research and theory building to strengthen the capacity of democratic governance institutions to produce better public policy.

Common Ground

[\(http://extension.ucdavis.edu/unit/common_ground/?utm_campaign=Common_Ground&utm_medium=general\)](http://extension.ucdavis.edu/unit/common_ground/?utm_campaign=Common_Ground&utm_medium=general)

Common Ground Center for Cooperative Solution provides services to facilitate problem solving for complex public policy issues.

Common Sense California

[\(http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/davenport-institute/\)](http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/davenport-institute/)

Common Sense California is a multi-partisan nonprofit organization that works with city governments, school districts, regional governance associations, and non-profit organizations to both support and promote legitimate civic involvement.

Community Focus

[\(http://www.communityfocus.org/\)](http://www.communityfocus.org/)

Community Focus is dedicated to helping communities solve their problems by using community resources — the people who live and work within a community — to identify and implement solutions.

Community Tool Box

(<http://ctb.ku.edu/en/default.aspx>)

The Community Tool Box provides more than 6,000 pages of practical skill-building information on over 250 different topics related to community health and development. Topic sections include step-by-step instruction, examples, checklists, and related resources. The Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development at the University of Kansas developed the site in 1995 in collaboration with AHEC/Community Partners in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Consensus Building Institute

(<http://www.cbuilding.org/about/mission>)

The Consensus Building Institute is a Cambridge-based nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the theory and practice of consensus building in government and civil society around the world.

Deliberative Democracy Consortium

(<http://www.deliberative-democracy.net/>)

The Deliberative Democracy Consortium is a network of researchers and practitioners working together to strengthen the field of deliberative democracy.

Everyday Democracy

(<http://www.everyday-democracy.org/en/index.aspx>)

Formerly The Study Circles Resource Center, Everyday Democracy is focused on including all voices in public problem solving through dialogue and community organizing to create and sustain community change.

Information Renaissance

(<http://www.info-ren.org/>)

Information Renaissance is a nonprofit organization that promotes the use of the Internet to empower citizens to participate more fully in the democratic decision-making.

The Harwood Institute of Public Innovation

(<http://www.theharwoodinstitute.org/>)

The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that has worked for over twenty years to help organizations and individuals turn outward and engage with their communities in new ways. Their free publications include tools, reports, and frameworks related to public engagement.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA)

(<http://www.ica-usa.org/>)

Drawing on its long history of working at the grassroots, the ICA offers an array of methods that enable people to work together to shape their future including training and facilitation for collaborative thinking, decision making and action and creative resources for sustainable community development.

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)

(<http://www.iap2.org/>)

The International Association for Public Participation helps organizations and communities around the world improve their decisions by involving those people who are affected by those decisions. The public participation toolbox includes a variety of techniques and tips for bringing people together, sharing information and collecting input.

International City/County Management Association

(<http://icma.org/en/icma/home>)

ICMA is the professional and educational organization for chief appointed managers, administrators, and assistants in cities, towns, counties, and regional entities throughout the world. ICMA's mission is to create excellence in local government by developing and fostering professional local government management worldwide.

Jefferson Center

(<http://www.jefferson-center.org>)

The Jefferson Center is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that advocates the use of a democratic process known as the Citizens Jury®.

Kettering Foundation

(<http://kettering.org>)

The Kettering Foundation is an operating foundation that conducts research focused on the question: What does it take to make democracy work as it should? Rather than looking for ways to improve on politics as usual, Kettering is seeking ways to make fundamental changes in how democratic politics are practiced.

Local Government Commission

(<http://www.lgc.org>)

LGC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership organization that provides inspiration, technical assistance, and networking to local elected officials and other dedicated community leaders who are working to create healthy, walkable, and resource-efficient communities.

National Civic League

(<http://www.ncl.org>)

The National Civic League (NCL) is a non-profit, non-partisan, membership organization dedicated to strengthening citizen democracy by transforming democratic institutions. NCL fosters innovative community building and political reform, assists local governments, and recognizes collaborative community achievement.

National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD)

(<http://ncdd.org/>)

NCDD has been cataloguing resources about and for dialogue and deliberation since 2002. At NCDD's Resource Center (<http://www.ncdd.org/rc>), you can access more than 2,600 discussion guides, assessment tools, case studies, public engagement programs and organizations, articles, books, videos, and more.

National League of Cities

(<http://www.nlc.org>)

The National League of Cities supports effective techniques to involve city officials in dialogue and inquiry around various forms of civic engagement, consensus building, collaboration, and participatory practices. NLC's "Strengthening Democratic Local Governance" seeks to increase municipal officials' awareness of, knowledge about, and access to resources about democratic local governance.

National Issues Forum s Institute

(<http://www.nifi.org>)

National Issues Forums (NIF) is a nonpartisan, nationwide network of locally sponsored public forums and structured dialogues for the consideration of public policy issues.

The Pew Partnership for Civic Change

(<http://www.pew-partnership.org>)

A civic research organization that explores how innovative partnerships, citizen participation, and accessible information can catalyze community solutions and provides consulting and program support to communities, governments, foundations and nonprofit agencies. LeadershipPlenty® trains future leaders based on an interactive curriculum that offers English, Spanish and low-literacy editions to develop a more inclusive, well-prepared citizenry.

PlaceMatters.org

(<http://www.placematters.org/>)

PlaceMatters.org is designed to help community leaders, public agencies, and land use planners understand and employ new tools and techniques for managing growth and other issues. There are three primary focus areas: Vision-Centered Place-Based Planning, Civic Engagement and Tools for Community Design and Decision Making.

PolicyLink

(<http://www.policylink.org/site/c.lkIXLbMNJrE/b.5136441/k.BD4A/Home.htm>)

PolicyLink is a national nonprofit organization working to advance policies to achieve economic and social equity, ensuring that everyone, including those from low-income communities of color, can contribute to and benefit from economic growth and prosperity. Among their regional approaches is equitable development, a local, regional, and state framework emphasizing equitable public investment, the fair distribution of affordable housing and community strategies to improve health.

Public Agenda

(<http://www.publicagenda.org>)

Public Agenda was founded by Daniel Yankelovich to help American leaders better understand the public's point of view and to help citizens know more about critical policy issues so they can make thoughtful, informed decisions Public Agenda conducts policy research that frames issues using polling and focus group methods.

Public Conversations Project

(<http://www.publicconversations.org/blog>)

The Public Conversations Project is a nonprofit organization that fosters a more inclusive, empathic and collaborative society by promoting constructive conversations and relationships among those who have differing values, worldviews and positions about divisive public issues.

Policy Consensus Initiative

(<http://www.policyconsensus.org>)

The Policy Consensus Initiative is a national nonprofit program working with leaders at the state level—governors, legislators, attorneys general, state agencies and others—to establish and strengthen the use of collaborative practices in states to bring about more effective governance.

University Network for Collaborative Governance
(<http://www.policyconsensus.org/uncg/index.html>)

The University Network for Collaborative Governance (UNCG) is made up of faculty members and professionals from college and university centers, institutes, and programs that engage in service and scholarship in order to build the capacity for collaborative governance in their communities and states. They offer a spectrum of services ranging from public deliberation to collaborative problem solving and multi-party conflict resolution.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government
(<http://www.sog.unc.edu/node/1244>)

The Community Problem-Solving and Collaboration program at UNC focuses on local and state government officials' needs for practical citizen involvement, stakeholder collaboration and multi-sector problem-solving. We specialize in nonprofit-government relations, and non-partisan, non-advocacy advising to North Carolina public officials of all viewpoints.

View point Learning, Inc.
(<http://www.viewpointlearning.com>)

Viewpoint Learning designs and conducts specialized dialogues for business and public policy. These dialogues — whether with the public, key stakeholders or employees — enable decision-makers to understand different viewpoints in depth and use that understanding to find common ground and new ways forward.