2015 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION FINDINGS

Electronic Survey Results

Survey Reach

- 264 Respondents
- 42 of 58 counties represented
- 48% of respondents were elected or local government staff

Findings

- 81% have seen at least one public decision with a cross-section of local community input; 12% said they never have.
- 83% worry that it is always the same people who participate and they tend to be extremists.
- 69% are concerned that local governments do not have sufficient staff, knowledge or financial resources for public engagement and that residents are not adequately informed.
- 83% of respondents who took part in Public Engagement Program learning opportunities reported an increase in public engagement knowledge and/or capacity.

Top 10 Areas to Apply Public Engagement

01 Parks & Recreation
02 Land Use & Planning
03 Transportation & Infrastructure
04 Law Enforcement/Policing
05 Housing
06 Electoral/Voting
07 Budgeting
08 Health/Social Services Delivery
09 Education
10 Immigrant Integration

Most preferred way to receive information:

- Online Resources
- Short Tip Sheets (2-4 pages)
- Webinars
- Workshops & Trainings
- Conference Sessions
- In-Person Technical Assistance

Public Engagement Challenges in Local Policy Decisions

- Always same people who participate
- Lack of staff and/or financial resources
- Those who participate are political extreme compared to community
- Residents aren't adequately informed about issues
- Lack of time
- Lack of procedures for assessing and learning from PE experiences
- Lack of knowledge on best practices

Populations not typically involved in local public meetings (top responses):

- Renters
- Low-income individuals
- Immigrants
- Latinos/Hispanics

See www.ca-ilg.org/PE2015Evaluation to find out more.