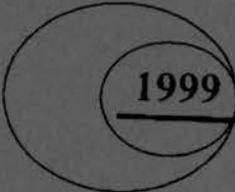




Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.



1999 Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues

What are the Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues?

- A diverse group of 8-15 people who:
 - ...come together to talk to each other about critical public policy issues and to identify some possible ideas for community action.
 - ...participate in a small, democratic discussion and share common concerns, thoughts, and perspectives.
 - ...can agree that it is not necessary to agree with each other, but that it is important to listen and respect all viewpoints in order to learn from each other.
- The groups meet for five sessions over a period of two months followed by a call-to-action forum.
- The discussions are facilitated by a person who is not there to act as an expert on the issues, but to keep the discussion focused and to ensure that all voices are heard.
- The facilitator and participants use a framework provided in a discussion guide that includes differing points of view about critical issues, questions for discussion, and reference material that can be used to inform the circle participants.

What is Required of You as a Sponsor?

Fundamentals:

- 1) Recruit a diverse group of between 8 and 15 people for your community circle.
- 2) Arrange a meeting space and time for your community circle.
- 3) Distribute discussion materials to each participant.
- 4) Designate a scribe to capture a written record of the highlights of each circle conversation.
- 5) Participate in an evaluation process.

Other key roles of a sponsor:

- Provide light snacks and beverages, a writing board and name tags at each meeting.
- Recruit a co-facilitator for your circle (may also serve as scribe).
- Keep records of participation for your circle (including address and phone listings).
- Provide child care, transportation and interpretive services as needed by participants.

What Cities at Work will provide for your community circle:

- Discussion guide (plus additional background materials)
- Trained facilitator
- Assistance in linking with other sponsor organizations to ensure group diversity
- Opportunity to share ideas for community action at the *Cities at Work* Call-to-Action forum