

2020

ONLINE
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

COHORT

www.elgl.org/cohorts

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Timeline

Applications Open: July 15, 2020
Applications Due: August 30, 2020
First Meeting: September 15, 2020
Closes: December 18, 2020

Cost & Scholarships

With generous funding from Bang the Table, this year's cohort cost is only \$750 (with a scholarship of \$750 from BTT). Partial and full scholarships for the remaining registration cost are available and can be applied for via the application form.

Eligibility

Local government employees who are interested in strengthening their community engagement strategies and plans in any department are invited to apply. Applications will require a short 350-word essay identifying a challenge or problem area you'd like to focus on.

Questions

Emily Edmonds, ELGL National Programs Director, emily@elgl.org



Bang the Table & ELGL are excited to announce the 2020 Community Engagement Cohort, a three-month learning opportunity designed for busy local government staff who are currently working to develop their engagement skills to meet new and changing needs.

Online engagement is becoming part of the Next Normal - as the world works to manage the spread of COVID-19, mitigate barriers to participation in civic life, and ensure equitable participation for all communities.

That's why ELGL & Bang the Table are partnering on a rapid-learning opportunity with this three-month program focused specifically on using online engagement tools and strategies to successfully involve your citizens, businesses, and stakeholders in civic decisions.

Participants in this course, focusing on building a strategic approach to online engagement, will learn the foundations of online engagement and leave with a project ready for virtual community engagement.

HELPING LOCAL GOVS GET THEIR
GROOVE BACK IN THE ONLINE WORLD

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

This isn't a typical engagement training - this is an active learning environment with webinar training, discussion boards, live discussions online and by video, content sharing, and more. This cohort will build a network of professionals who can trust one another and continue to learn from one another long after the cohort program ends. We hope this will be the training you've always dreamed of attending - because we've been planning the training we've always dreamed of attending.

The cohort-model learning process allows local government practitioners in any department to enhance their knowledge of community engagement and work with others from around the country to learn best practices and identify common challenges. The cohort will comprise a single group of up to 45 participants and will be hosted through an online collaboration platform, with supplemental live calls, optional remote coworking, and training opportunities.

Participants will review all the foundations of online engagement and leave with a project ready for virtual community engagement. The main objectives are:

- Be able to design and implement an online engagement process that is inclusive and aligned with best practices.
- Understand the opportunities and the challenges of online engagement and know how to address challenges in a creative way.
- Identify the appropriate online engagement tools for a variety of different projects or situations, how to apply them and how to be creative with them.

Cohort participants will work as peer groups to support one another's project development and will be matched with mentor experts from around the country for one-on-one assistance. Each cohort member will identify and complete a project plan for community engagement during the cohort.

With generous funding from Bang the Table, this year's cohort cost is only \$750 (with a scholarship of \$750 from BTT). Partial and full scholarships for the remaining registration cost are available and can be applied for via the application form. All cohort materials, resources, and trainings are included, as is registration for the virtual #ELGL20 conference (October 12-16, 2020) where the cohort will present their work to attendees. Registration also includes access to the BTT collaboration platform and the Engagement 101 Handbook.

Scholarships require each participant in the cohort to complete a one-page contract - [preview it here](#).

COSTS

Applicants must commit to roughly seven hours per month of participation:

- A biweekly training session of 1.5 hours with the trainer, guest speakers and time for discussions
- Online engagement with the trainer and cohort peers of at least 30 minutes after the training call ends
- Up to two hours of asynchronous work that can be completed on your own time online and in the workbook
- Mentor meetings up to 1 hour monthly
- Online sessions are every second and fourth Tuesday from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15, with holiday exceptions, at 11 PT | 2 ET

After completion of the cohort, each cohort member will be assigned to private cohort Slack and Facebook groups for continued networking and peer support, and will have the opportunity to co-teach and mentor others in future cohorts.

TIME



ELIGIBILITY

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OUTCOMES

- Attend biweekly collaboration & training sessions
- Access remote coworking & networking opportunities
- Build a project plan for engagement in small, manageable assignments that are refined through peer feedback
- Create authentic connections with cohort participants and build a network beyond the end of the cohort
- Promote your learning, knowledge, and work through blog posts on ELGL.org and sharing through the ELGL and BTT social networks

APPLY NOW

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- 2020 Community Engagement -

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