

Increasing impact ↑

Levels of Community Engagement			
	Community Participation Goal	Promise to the community	Examples Note that any given example can fall into different levels depending on how it is designed
5 Defer to or Community-Led	To place the decision-making in the hands of the community and/or to support the actions of community-initiated, driven and/or led processes	We will implement what you decide, or follow your lead generally on the way forward; We will provide the needed support to see your ideas succeed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-led task forces • Funding and support for community-led processes • Consensus building • Participatory decision-making
4 Collaborate	To partner with the community in each aspect of the decision-making, including the development of alternatives and identification of the preferred solution	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes with regular and ongoing dialogue and collaboration • Advisory groups • Citizen science models* • Community ethnography models** • Partnerships with community-based orgs
3 Involve	To work directly with community throughout the process to ensure their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how that input influenced decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities where topics or priorities emerge based on what's important to community • Community meetings • Community interviews • Interactive workshops • Advisory groups • Community dinners
2 Consult	To obtain community feedback on analyses, alternatives, and/or solutions	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how community input influenced decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities focused on collecting feedback • Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Community meetings • Community interviews • Pop-ups / listening posts
1 Inform	To provide the community with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions	We will keep you informed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Websites • Open houses • Presentations • Data walks • Educational signage

* **Citizen science** is a collaborative effort between community members and scientists to increase scientific knowledge. It involves collaborating on the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data to address real-world problems.

** **Community-based ethnography** is a research method that seeks to understand community needs, wants, challenges, or cultural dynamics. It actively involves community members in all stages of the study, including designing research questions, data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

*** Table draws from a number of precedents including IAP2, Movement Strategy Center, and the Massachusetts Community Engagement Standards for Community Health Planning Guideline” (2017).