



What do we mean by Resident Engagement?

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Resident Engagement

- An approach that centers on helping community members identify the changes they want to see and then supporting them in pursuing their goals. – Aspen Institute, 2014
- Because the Foundation’s mission is to “advance equitable social and economic mobility and dismantle structural racism in Greater Hartford,” supporting “Resident Engagement” as defined by the “Civic and Resident Engagement” outcome team has come to mean supporting residents as they engage in *“civic life.”*



What do we mean by Resident Engagement?

Civic life

- “Defined broadly as the attitudes, activities and investments that build on collective resources, skills, expertise, and knowledge to improve citizens quality of life in community.”
- “Encompassing both engagement and trust as the sum of all efforts that promote the common good within communities.”
- “Higher levels of **civic trust**, participation, and engagement are correlated with both **more equitable economic outcomes** and **many positive health outcomes.**”

Community Wellbeing Index,
DataHaven, 2019



What could Resident
Engagement look like?

What *could* Resident Engagement look like?

- Community conversations or workshops designed to engage and challenge residents in their own personal thinking around attitudes and beliefs aligned with our mission
- Volunteerism designed to build good will among varying groups of people
- Informational outreach campaigns that encourage social cohesiveness – in alignment with the Foundation’s mission
- Projects with civic and municipal leaders *on behalf* of marginalized/underrepresented communities

Resident Engagement is *probably* not...

- Out-of-school-time *recreational* youth activities groups
- Neighborhood bowling clubs
- Senior engagement activities not designed for participation in broader civic life
- Business and Networking Professional Associations

Different from Community Organizing?

If the activities or purpose of the proposal elevates itself to:

- Power shifting/power sharing in civic spaces as led by individuals representing marginalized/underrepresented population
- Elevating community voice by allowing them to set your agenda
- Facilitating opportunities for marginalized/underrepresented citizens to seek accountability from institutions

The proposal *might* be reviewed through the lens of our Community Organizing RFP.