

IDENTIFYING THE GOAL

of your

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION



As you are deciding your topic, you should also determine your goals for the conversation.

The below graphic outlines four goals you may wish to consider for your conversation. While they do not need to be mutually exclusive, often one of these goals will be the most predominant.



EXPLORATION

GOAL:

Help people to learn more about themselves, their community or an issue

POSSIBLE OUTCOME:

Individual and/or community knowledge is expanded and innovative ideas arise



CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

GOAL:

Address poor relationships or a specific conflict among individuals or groups

POSSIBLE OUTCOME:

Empathy and understanding is built among individuals, leading to better opportunities for conflict resolution



DECISION-MAKING

GOAL:

Impact a decision or policy

POSSIBLE OUTCOME:

Public knowledge of an issue is improved and support is gathered for a chosen action



COLLABORATIVE ACTION

GOAL:

Tackle complex problems as a group or community

POSSIBLE OUTCOME:

Shared responsibility and action is taken to address a specific issue

This graphic has been adapted from the *Engagement Streams Framework* developed by Sandy Heierbacher and the members of the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD) in 2005, which helps people decide which methods of dialogue and deliberation best fit their goals and resources.

For the full framework, go to www.ncdd.org/streams