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### Campus, Community, and Community Engagement Context

This Carnegie monthly webinar series is available, in alignment with the Collaboratory vision, to assist institutions completing the application and share promising practices across institutions.

Kristin Medlin, Collaboratory Co-Founder and Director of Research and Development, provides an overview of Section 2, highlighting the critical components of both local, regional, and national community context and the evolution of community engagement over time at an institution. Using UNC-Greensboro as an example in reviewing community context, Kristin shares that Greensboro has a rich and complex civil rights history and more recently serves as a refugee resettlement location, both of which impact how the institution contextualizes, and defines community engagement. Further, thinking about the evolution of the work is a line of inquiry that allows for an opportunity to review where the institution and the community are, have been, and what the future holds.

### Section 2 Summary

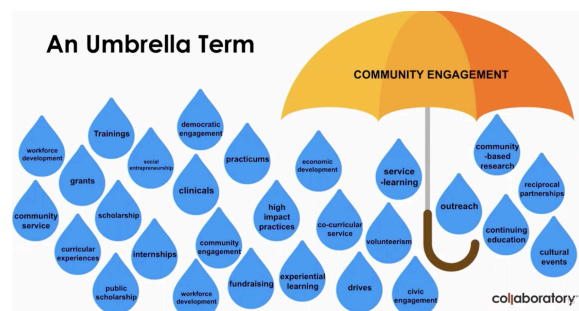
#### Campus, Community, and Community Engagement Context

Question	2024 First-Time	2024 Re-Classification	Different from 2015 First-Time?	Different from 2015 Re-Classification?
Q1 - definition	same	same	Not asked	B.1.a
Q2 - campus context/history	same	same	Not asked	Not asked
Q3 - community context/history	same	same	Not asked	Not asked
Q4 - evolution of CE structures on campus	same	same	Not asked	Not asked
Q5 - impact of recent events	same	same	Not asked	Not asked

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### What to Encompass in Your Umbrella Definition of Community Engagement:

The application asks first time applicants for a university-wide definition, a new question in the first-time framework. This section includes limits of 500 words, requiring precision, while describing the process and purpose of community partnerships. For campuses that already have an institution-wide definition - use this and describe how it came to be and how defining it helps facilitate the work! If not, no worries. One option would be using the Carnegie definition if that makes sense. Regardless of what campuses



choose, definitions matter, and consistency of naming terms across campus helps in the integration of an engaged institutional identity, but really think about what definition makes sense, encompassing the breadth and depth of individual campus' work. Campuses vary greatly



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in if/how they define terms. What matters more is demonstrating campus integration and institutional alignment.

As Lauren Wendling, Collaboratory's Director of Institutional Success, facilitates in the poll, you can see wide variety in the attendees' responses to how/if their campus defines community engagement. For institutions looking for a starting point, see [UNC-Greensboro's Definition](#) and associated resources. Beyond the exact wording and definitions chosen, the inclusion of community voice, demonstrating reciprocity and mutual benefit is critical.

### Civic Engagement v. Community Engagement

Cathy Copeland, Director of the American Democracy Project, shares that many institutions choose to define the term "Civic Engagement". They often build upon previous definitions of engagement, like working to make a difference in the quality of life in community, which frame ADP's value to "prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to be informed and engaged, ready to tackle current and future issues, especially in order to ensure an thriving and equitable democracy."

Whether civic or community engagement or other terms are chosen, in developing a definition or adapting a current definition, it needs to make sense on your campus, and help to illustrate how

### So What?

- What can we do if we don't have a definition?
  - Explain why one does not exist
  - Work on one between now and May 2023
- Generative (not reactive) approach when answering the question:
  - Who to involve
  - What possible definitions to modify/adapt
  - Considering other places on campus engagement is highlighted (e.g., strategic plan)
  - What broad outcomes do you want to endorse/aspirationally seek
  - Broad vs. narrow
  - What terms to avoid?
  - What if you don't have a CE office?

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### Definition of Community Engagement

1. Does your institution currently have a definition of community engagement? (Single Choice) \*

Yes - we have an institutionally agreed upon definition (please share in chat, if comfortable!) 29%

Yes - but we are working to refine/modify it (please share in chat, if comfortable!) 19%

No - but we are working to create one 24%

No - and we are NOT currently working to create one 10%

Unsure 19%

engagement is operationalized. When defining engagement, definitions may include broader outcomes, like encompassing voting and democratic ideals to community service to teaching and learning. Further, definitions should help illuminate where this type of work might occur on campus and how different parts of campus think of related work. And, think about engaging these folks as stakeholders to help work toward a

campus-wide definition. **For those applying in 2024 - start the process now! It's suggested to make a decision to apply by October 2022.**