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Become a Community Guide for Minimum Wage Conversations!

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Community Guide! Completed responses must be received by Friday, May 20, 2022.

What is a Community Guide?

If you have ever wanted to bring people together to talk about the opportunities and challenges facing Fort Collins- now is your chance! We are looking for a diverse group of community members who can help us engage our community as we work together to discuss the local minimum wage.

Community Guides are individuals who will play a critical role in holding conversations about minimum wage in Fort Collins. You will be trained and empowered to lead conversations within your own communities in response to the impacts of the current minimum wage, and potential impacts of raising the minimum wage. These conversations will help decision-makers understand the best course forward as they consider raising the minimum wage in the City of Fort Collins.

You will receive facilitation training and discussion materials to take back to your communities so that you can talk with your friends, neighbors, or coworkers about what these issues mean in their own lives. We'll also provide help with facilitation support and other resources if you need them.

All over Fort Collins, people will be gathering to talk with each other, share ideas, and guide community conversations about minimum wage. Anyone can help lead these conversations—all you need is a bit of free time and an interest in hosting great conversations!

Who do we hope to involve?

Anyone can be a Community Guide, and we welcome any individual who is passionate about connecting with a community group, neighbors, friends, or coworkers. **We want these conversations to engage a wide array of participants—particularly those who are often left out of the conversation.**

Representation and equity are integral components of this process. To create opportunities for equitable engagement, financial support is available to Community Guides who are committed to supporting the voices and perspectives of historically excluded communities. If you or your organization has a strong connection to these communities, we encourage you to apply. Examples of historically excluded populations include, but are not limited to, the following groups.

- Communities of color
- Community members under 29 or over 65
- Individuals experiencing homelessness
- Community members making below the median income in Fort Collins
- LGBTQIA+ communities

- Spanish-speaking community members
- Local Indigenous communities
- Migrant communities
- People with disabilities
- Veterans

Do I have to be part of an official organization?

No! We hope to include both individuals who can connect with their own community groups, neighbors, or friends and individuals acting in a more formal capacity on behalf of a community organization, nonprofit, or business.

Okay, I'm in. What do I have to do?

We estimate that the total time commitment for a Community Guide will be approximately 30 hours over the course of the next year. It's easy to get started.

1. First, click on the link below to apply! Applications will be accepted until Friday, May 20th. The Center for Public Deliberation will contact selected Community Guides no later than May 25.
2. Attend training sessions and become an official volunteer. We'll offer two training sessions. The first training session will introduce you to this style of engagement. It will also provide training in hosting productive conversations as well as tools, tips, and practice for hosting conversations. The second training session will walk you through the "Meeting-in-a-Box" tools and conversation guide. Each training session will take approximately 2 hours for a total of 4 hours of training. These training sessions are not yet scheduled, but will likely be in June 2022
3. Host one to two (1-2) gatherings (1-2 hours each) by August 1 to discuss minimum wage in our community. If you represent a formal organization, we'll ask you to host two meetings, and if you are volunteering as an individual, you'll only need to host 1 (though we'd love it if you hosted more!).
4. Share the notes and data from your conversations with the Center for Public Deliberation (CPD). We'll provide you with materials for your participants to fill out, and the ideas you gather will help City staff understand the issues our community is facing, our shared goals, and how to best move forward.
5. Attend one (1) community meeting that will gather folks who have already participated in a community conversation hosted by a Community Guide as well as members of the wider community. At that meeting we'll talk through potential paths forward for the City.
6. Participate in a debrief conducted by the Center for Public Deliberation that will ask you to reflect on your experience as a Community Guide and develop ideas for how we might improve our engagement efforts moving forward.

How do I apply?

Please [fill out this form](#) to tell us more about you, the population(s) you are interested in connecting to, and if you are able to engage historically excluded populations.

Completed responses must be received by Friday, May 20th.

For more information, please email us at cpd@colostate.edu