

ENGAGING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES IN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CONNECTIONS

Central City Concern

Partnership

- *noun* \-ship\ : the state of being partners
- a relationship between partners
- a business that is owned by partners
- **Full Definition of *PARTNERSHIP***
- the state of being a partner: participation
- a **legal relation** existing between two or more persons **contractually associated** as joint principals in a **business**
- the persons joined together in a partnership
- a relationship resembling a **legal partnership** and usually involving close **cooperation** between parties having specified and joint rights and responsibilities

Relationship

- *noun* \-shən-ship\ : the way in which two or more people, groups, countries, etc., **talk to**, **behave** toward, and **deal** with each other
- the way in which two or more people or things are **connected**
- **Full Definition of *RELATIONSHIP***
- the state of being **related or interrelated** <studied the *relationship* between the variables>
- the relation connecting or binding participants in a relationship: as **kinship**
- a specific instance or type of kinship
- a state of affairs existing between those having relations or dealings <had a good *relationship* with his family>

Tips for Engaging Diverse Communities

- You will need to build strong and caring relationships based on trust, understanding, and shared goals.
- It takes time. You will need time before, during, and after any "project" to build the relationship and maintain it.
- You are never done!
- Be ready with culturally and linguistically appropriate and sensitive materials, translated into appropriate languages for potential partnership projects
- Communications styles vary across cultures
- Curiosity- Approach individuals from diverse communities with a willingness to learn. Ask questions, and listen more than you speak.
- Relationship ethic is more important than work ethic! Don't come to meetings with an agenda
- Never take words, concepts, or objectives at face value ... Words have different meanings in different communities.
- Engaging with communities requires flexibility. A comfortable place for them to meet might not be the same as yours.
- Get support and training on Cross cultural communication, cultural competence and cultural humility
- Be committed to on-going engagement. If you are unable to continue engagement over time, it may be better to not engage at all – you may lose any future opportunities.

Successful (Partnerships) Relationships can:

- Develop and articulate a common understanding of issues, needs and solutions
- Leverage financial, technical and human resources and expertise
- Generate innovation and improvements in service and services