



# Our Planned Journey for Cohort #5

## “Providing a US Social Safety Net (Health, Food, Housing)”

### Define Problem, Select Issue, Learn and Agree on Methods

#### Pre-work

- Registration
- Issue Ranking
- [1] – Sep 18 Rec Rm
- Foundations** –
- Introductions
- Partisan Divide Discussion
- Issue Discussion – defining US Social Safety Net
- Principles & Methods
- Skills Practice

9/18 → 11/13

Select Monday Nights, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

11/13/2023

### Apply Engagement Methods to Build Common Understanding

[2] – Oct 2 Rec Rm

**Fishbowls** – Groups meet on how the participants connect personally to the issue (Values & Beliefs, Concerns & Vision)

[3] – Oct 9 Cabana

**Small Groups** – Small Groups (2-4) meet to explore where each person stands on Solutions and Policies to address the issue

### Find Common Ground

[4] – Oct 23 Rec Room

**Caucuses I** – Segmented groups caucus to find *proposed* common ground (Values, Concerns, Vision, and Solutions). As a full group - discuss integrate and Identify *completely* common ground

[5] – Nov 6 Cabana

**Caucuses II** – Further exploration of points of agreement for “almost” common ground and, time permitting, core disagreements

### Reflect and Wrap-up

[6] – Nov 13 Cabana

**Full Room Discussion** –

- (1) Summarize the values, concerns, vision, and solutions that common
- (2) identify differences slight and major
- (3) Suggest possible action steps for both individuals and formed sub-groups



# Remember our “Front of Room” Flipcharts Survey Results follow ...

<b>Values and Beliefs</b>
Common
Other

<b>Concerns / Desired Outcomes</b>	
Common Concerns	Common Outcomes
Other Concerns	Other Outcomes

<b>Proposed Solution &amp; Paths Taken</b>
Common
Other

# Values and Beliefs – Common Ground

VALUE	RESPONSES	%
Citizens embrace the value of each other by contributing to the common good and aiding those less fortunate. (V4)	6	100%
All Children should receive an equal education k-12 where they can develop skills to get a good job and be a fully participating citizen (V1)	5	83%
Govt should use fiscal responsibility when funding social safety net programs (V12)	5	83%
Live in a system where you can succeed if you work hard (V2)	4	67%
Society embraces the golden rule (V5)	4	67%
Every citizen deserves has a right to affordable education, Healthcare, food, and housing (V7)	4	67%
Society has the responsibility to provide for the needy and ensure that they are aware of what aid exists and how to access it (V8)	4	67%
There are safety nets with stable baselines that enable self-improvement and the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness yielding hope for a better future and fewer barriers to success (V9)	3	50%
Stakeholders defined, led and implemented to include the federal and state govt, non-profits, private and public companies and institutions. (V10)	3	50%
Access to safety net programs should be earned not given (V3)	2	33%
Govt recognizes the U.N declaration of human rights here in the US (V6)	2	33%
<u>Other - children should receive a tailored education based on abilities and needs</u>	1	17%
Stakeholders have shared funding with implementation based on NGO (V11)	0	0%

# Concerns – Common Ground (Part 1 of 2)

CONCERN	RESPONSES	%
Immigration laws won't allow immigrants to work while being processed (C5)	6	100%
There is a rise in populism and political polarization that is creating distrust within the population (C18)	6	100%
Access to affordable housing units are 2-3 year wait list (C12)	5	83%
Immigration laws need to be revised and strictly enforced (C14)	4	67%
Laws allow districts to be gerrymandered so that voting results can be controlled by those in power (C15)	4	67%
Tax laws favor tax avoidance (C20)	4	67%
Lobbyists have too much access and power (C23)	4	67%
As the US population ages there will be more people relying on social security and Medicare. This could put a strain on these programs unless they are adequately funded. (C25)	4	67%
Engineering HSB1 Visas are too low (C4)	3	50%
Elected officials lack ethics and character, so we don't trust their judgment when solving issues (C16)	3	50%
Society is losing its morals, ethics and character making it harder to trust each other (C17)	3	50%
Medicare not allowed to negotiate prices (C19)	3	50%
Citizens United has created a value system where the money of the powerful is used to control and reduce the freedoms of the population (C22)	3	50%
The costs of healthcare and other safety net programs are rising. This could make it difficult to maintain these programs without raising taxes or cutting funding for other government programs (C26)	3	50%

# Concerns – Common Ground (Part 2 of 2)

CONCERN	RESPONSES	%
Govt cannot effectively govern when the citizenry do not share the same values (C1)	2	33%
The poor have been excluded from higher education (C3)	2	33%
Safety net programs do not encourage work and are plagued with traps (C6)	2	33%
Not enough cooperation between govt, non-profits and corporations (C13)	2	33%
Population feel that the economy is unfair and rigged against them (C21)	2	33%
We have become a bailout nation not an opportunity nation (C7)	1	17%
Safety net programs are used as a means of self-enrichment by providers (C9)	1	17%
Safety net deficiencies include difficult systems to work, they are under resourced, law of obstacles, history, politics, not dealing with root causes (C11)	1	17%
Pharmaceutical companies are allowed to promote directly to the consumer (C24)	1	17%
Other - dysfunction caused by political party intransigence based on voter differences caused in part by social media	1	17%
Home education is bad for the unity of the country (C2)	0	0%
Safety net programs are inefficient and dysfunctional inviting fraud and excess and funding programs (C8)	0	0%
Safety net programs have too low a threshold and expanding limits (C10)	0	0%

# Outcomes – Common Ground

DESIRED OUTCOMES	RESPONSES	%
The Government provides an appropriate safety net in times of need that aids citizens in returning to work (O4)	6	100%
A population who can work and provide for themselves and their family (O1)	5	83%
A population that can afford to provide Healthcare for themselves and their family (O2)	4	67%
A population that can afford to provide housing themselves and their family (O3)	4	67%
Safety nets have well defined baselines (O6)	3	50%
Approved Safety nets are funded, streamlined and operational with all involved stakeholders (O7)	3	50%
Services are embraced and results in a massive increase in job growth and income (O8)	2	33%
Today's hopelessness replaced by tomorrow's thriving (O9)	1	17%
Other - safety net consistently meets basic needs and enables recipients to spend time/effort on improving their situation	1	17%
Today's hopelessness replaced by tomorrow's thriving (O5)	0	0%

# Solutions – Common Ground (Part 1 of 3)

SOLUTIONS	RESPONSES	%
Accelerate work permits and allow immigrants to work while being processed (S7)	6	100%
Increase taxes on the wealthy (S23)	6	100%
Expand higher education incentives to include trade schools (S1)	5	83%
Make college and higher education more affordable with lower interest loans, more grant programs, increase online education (S2)	5	83%
Expand and fund job training programs that successfully lead to good paying jobs so that the citizenry can be self sufficient (S8)	5	83%
Subsidize municipalities instead of developers to address housing issues (S21)	5	83%
Increase funding for public schools and reevaluate the disparity impact of funding from property taxes (S3)	4	67%
Increase the number of affordable housing units to reduce wait times which reduces homelessness (S28)	4	67%
Govt should be composed of honest politicians that are supported by the population (S36)	4	67%
Society provides opportunities for our children's futures by providing guidance from 8th grade forward (S6)	3	50%
Reduce waste and excess by qualifying and delivering for services at state and local level (S17)	3	50%
Provide universal health care coverage by expanding Medicare to all ages (S26)	3	50%
Evaluate executive pay, tax loopholes and benefits (S33)	3	50%
Eliminate or modify Citizens United (S35)	3	50%

# Solutions – Common Ground (Part 1 of 3)

SOLUTIONS	RESPONSES	%
Reevaluate education standards for jobs requiring a higher education (S4)	2	33%
Increase funding for social service providers (S20)	2	33%
Expand Medicaid to cover the health needs of all low income Americans (S25)	2	33%
Expand access to housing vouchers and section B housing (S29)	2	33%
Eliminate food deserts in poor communities (S30)	2	33%
Expand access to nutritious food by eliminating food deserts, expanding access to SNAP (S31)	2	33%
Reduce political power of insurance companies (S32)	2	33%
Establish term limits (S38)	2	33%
Relook at BFOQ higher education degrees (S5)	1	17%
Create work requirements for social safety net programs (S9)	1	17%
Access the jobs act (S10)	1	17%
Increase the minimum wage (S11)	1	17%
Increase retirement date for social security and Medicare and use a 5 year phase in, with an age 79 minimum (S12)	1	17%
Reduce profit incentives by using nonprofits for service delivery (S15)	1	17%
Implement quality standards for all safety net programs (S16)	1	17%



# Solutions – Common Ground (Part 2 of 3)

SOLUTIONS	RESPONSES	%
Establish compulsory service to use the free labor to lower the costs of safety net programs (S24)	1	17%
Create a guaranteed income program that would provide a basic income to all Americans (S27)	1	17%
More consistency between state-to-state programs and access (S34)	1	17%
Increase partnership with corporations to reduce bureaucracies (S37)	1	17%
Isolate radicals (S39)	1	17%
Other - increase the earned income tax credit	1	17%
Require citizens to work full time for 50 years before retiring (S13)	0	0%
Redefine the safety net baselines by state (S14)	0	0%
Replace Govt social safety net programs with private charity and philanthropy (S18)	0	0%
Use means testing for qualifying for safety net programs (S19)	0	0%
Tax the earned income tax credit (S22)	0	0%

# Discuss Next Steps

- Potential Action Steps on Providing the US Social Safety Net
  - Individually
  - Sub-Teams
  - Organizations
- Finishing the Work, the details might include ...
  - Identify what “Needs to change” now to + 3-5 years
  - Specify the Offering
    - Who determines the offering (services, goods, etc)?
    - What is the offering? Model?
    - Who receives? How deep? How wide? Under what terms?
  - Determine the Funding
    - How much?
    - How to fund the offering?
  - Manage the Implementation long term?
    - How to implement the offering now?
    - How to adjust implementation into the future

# Building Bridges Cohort 5 Wrap-up

## *Did we meet our Desired Outcomes?*

- *Enrich* (depth and breadth) your **understanding** of the selected issue – **both** your view and **especially** other views
- *Identify* and *build* **common ground** on our selective divisive issue
- *Learn* ways to **disagree** without being **disagreeable**
- *Develop* skills to become a **uniting** and **depolarizing presence** in your daily life

- A Full Story *with* Principles

Values and Beliefs

Concerns and Desired Outcomes

Solution

- **Increase self AWARENESS**
- **BE open minded**
- **Prioritize relationships OVER ideas**
- **Seek to UNDERSTAND with depth**
- **TAKE winning off the table**

*Pure Disgust → Angry Disagreement → Civil Dialogue*

# What's next for Building Bridges at the Pinehills?

- Moving to Monthly, except July and August, Starting 1/8/2024
- Usually, meets in the Cabana the first Monday night except holidays
- Picking the next topic – How about?
- Updated Model with three sessions on the selected topic
  1. Build Understanding of Values/Beliefs, Concerns, & Desired Outcomes
  2. Build Understanding of Possible Solutions
  3. Identify and Finalize Solutions (Common, Almost Common, and Not Common)
- Top of Mind Comments and Thoughts (survey coming)



THANK YOU!



# Proposed Building Bridges 2024 Model

## Define Problem, Select Issue, Learn and Agree on Methods

### Pre-work

- Registration
- Issue Ranking and Selection
- Introductory fact pack for selected issue
- On-ramp Session for *New Participants Only* (during week prior to Start)**
- Foundations** –
  - Introductions
  - Partisan Divide Discussion
  - Principles & Methods
  - Skills Practice

## Build Understanding of Values & Beliefs, Concerns, & Desired Outcomes

### [1] – First Session

**Issue Discussion** – defining and bounding

**Identify Values & Beliefs, Concerns, & Desired Outcomes**

**Fishbowls** – each participant shares their baseline

### Common Ground

**Discussion** – Identify major agreements (100%) and almost agreements (67%+). Document all others.

## Build Understanding of Proposed Solutions

### [2] – Second Session

**Identify Possible Solutions and Action Paths**

**Fishbowls** – each participant shares their summary baseline with Proposed solution and action path

**Common Ground Discussion** – Identify major agreements (100%) and document almost agreements (67%+) and others.

## Find Common Ground and Wrap-up

### [3] – Third Session

**Identify and Finalize Common Ground**

**Discuss and summarize the values, concerns, vision, and solutions:**

All major agreements (100%)

Almost agreements (67%+) and issues

All others (document only)

**Identify possible future actions for both individuals and formed sub-groups**