

# Engaging Your Community

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# Cross-Cutting Values

## **Expanding Engagement**

- Hearing from communities that have been left out of traditional processes
- Using a wide variety of strategies


## **Innovation and continual learning**

- Using new tools
- Listening and adapting to meet the needs of the community

## **Expanded capacity**

- Tapping into the talents and networks of the community
- Offering opportunities for community members to learn important civic skills

## **Fuller representation**

- Connecting to a wide range of community members
  - Recognizing the intersection of various identities and communities
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Oregon's Kitchen Table (OKT) is a space for Oregonians from every corner of the state to contribute feedback, ideas, and resources to decision-makers, public projects, and initiatives.

[www.oregonskitchentable.org](http://www.oregonskitchentable.org)





# About OKT




- 11 years
- More than 30 projects
- Every level -- state, region, county, city, district
- 7 languages
- Variety of topics / decisions



# Oregon's Kitchen Table is committed to engaging a broad range of community members in public decisions.

We work with organizers, translators, and interpreters so materials and online and in-person consultations are available for Oregonians who speak a wide variety of languages and learn in a variety of ways.

We recognize that people bring all different levels of knowledge and familiarity regarding issues / policies. We use approaches to ensure those who may not have as in-depth knowledge can still respond and share what they believe and have experienced.



# Targeted Universalism

*Our approach is based on an approach developed by John A. Powell at University of California, Berkeley, called "targeted universalism." The idea is we have the same overall goal for everyone--to hear their voice in public decision-making. That's the universalism part. The targeted part is that it takes a wide variety of approaches to reach different communities.*

- After we get all that input in all those ways, we then create a report to try to make sense of it.*

# Statewide Example: ODE Review of High School Graduation Requirements

## Activities

Online & paper surveys in 7 languages

Community Organizers

Individual interviews with community connectors from specific communities

Community conversations in multiple languages with specific communities

## Outreach

19 ESDs, Oregon School Districts

Focused outreach and engagement with communities and people with students who identify as:

Youth; Tribal members, Native & Indigenous communities; LGBTQ2SIA+ youth supporting groups; English learners; people who experience a disability; have been or am without a house; immigrant or refugee; migrant worker or student; child in foster care; Student who has changed high schools

## Results

More than 3,000 Oregonians

50% identifying from focused engagement groups

40 community conversations

All 36 counties and 19 ESDs

Currently analyzing input for ODE as they develop recommendations to state legislature for September 2022



# Regional Example: Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership - Development of Regional Water Action Plan

## Activities

2 Phases – 2018 and 2021

Online survey - Spanish and English

Paper survey - Spanish and English

Community Organizers for Spanish speaking and Mam speaking communities in multiple geographic areas

Coordination with Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Tribal Council - Tribal members' mailing

Listening sessions - Spanish & Mam

## Outreach

Personal networks - always!

Elected officials, business owners, formal networks

Press releases to media  
Interviews/articles in papers

Posters w/ tear-offs & Post cards

Church announcements

Library pick up / drop off sites across county (especially rural areas) for paper surveys

## Results

800+ people across both phases, including 100+ Tribal members and 175+ Spanish and Mam speaking community members

Partnership used input to guide development of Water Action Plan Priorities and Actions

Water Action Plan currently being finalized for state recognition



# City Example: City of Hood River Housing

## Activities

Online & paper survey - Spanish and English

Community Organizers for Spanish speaking communities

Individual interviews Group listening sessions - Spanish & English (w/ particular interest groups)

## Outreach

Personal networks - always!

Electeds, business owners, formal networks (e.g. Mayor's Latinx Advisory Group)

Spanish language radio

Posters - distributed electronically (e.g. to breweries)

Church / class (Zumba)

Popular brick & mortar locations (Western wear store)

## Results

Nearly 1,000 people

220 Spanish speaking community members

Provided a sense of what people wanted to see for housing availability in City of Hood River and hopes for what kind of community they wanted

Thank you!

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