

Cultivating Common Ground for Effective Community Development



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What have you seen in community?

What topics have sparked division?

What topics have involved a lack of civility?

Building Social Capital

“Social capital reflects the connections among people and organizations or the social glue to make things, positive or negative, happen.

It includes mutual trust, reciprocity, groups, collective identity, sense of a shared future, and working together.

It is extremely important for creating a healthy ecosystem and a vital economy.”

–Social Capital and Community, Rural Communities, March 2018

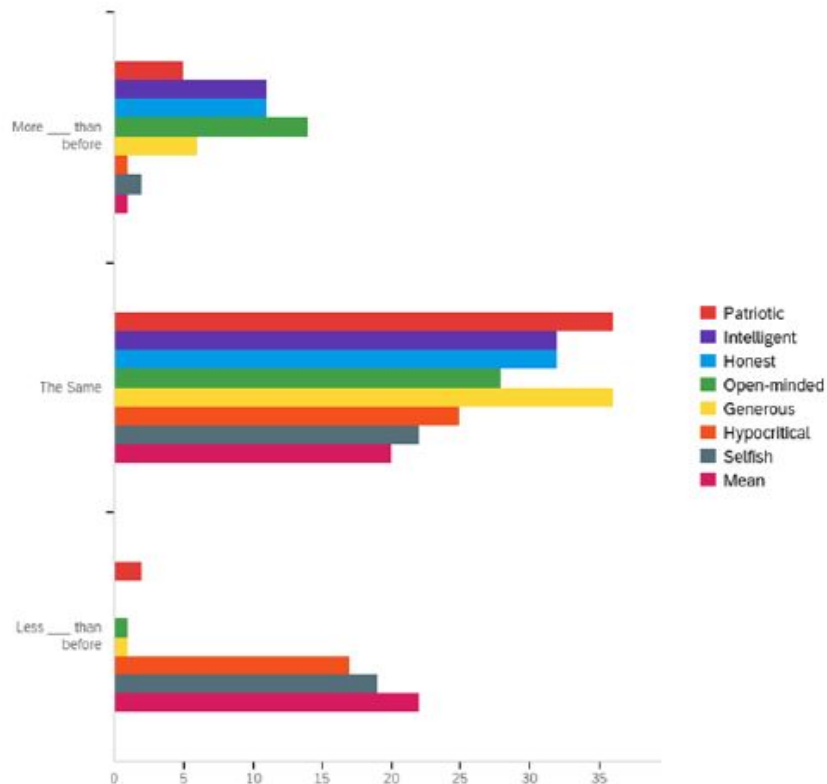
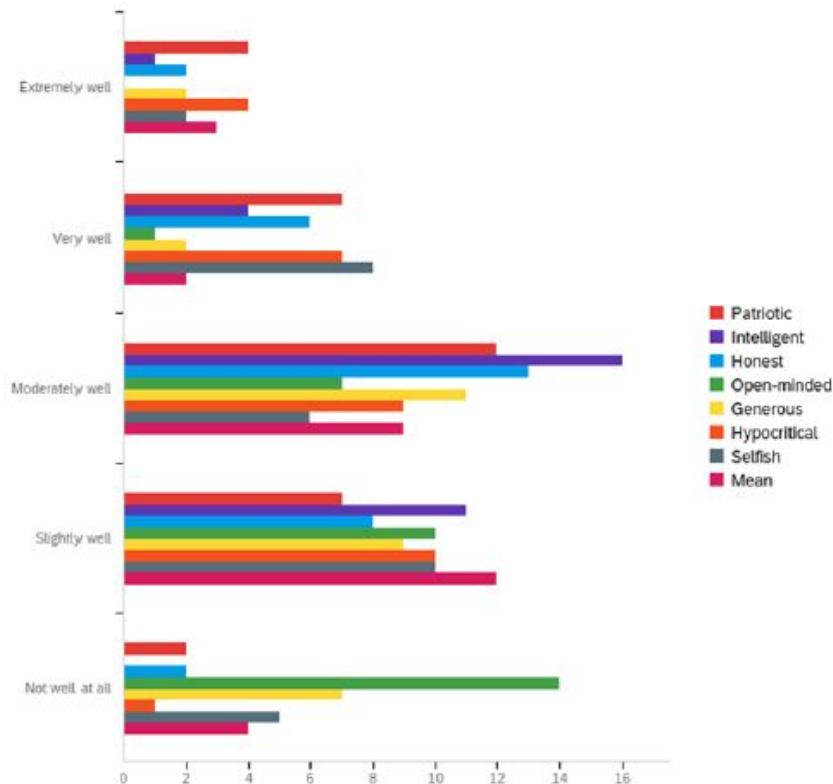
Skills for Bridging the Divide



As a result of the session, people's negative stereotypes of people with different political perspectives from their own changed. Participants viewed people with opposite political perspectives as *less hypocritical, selfish, and mean, and more open-minded, honest, and intelligent* than before the session.

PRE-SESSION: Please indicate how well you think each of the following words apply to individuals who hold political perspectives opposite of your own.

POST-SESSION: After participating in the workshop, I see individuals who hold political perspectives opposite of my own as...



After participating in the workshop, how comfortable are you having conversations with people who hold political perspectives opposite of your own?

		Still not comfortable	Slightly more comfortable	Somewhat more comfortable	More comfortable	Total
For the purposes of the workshop, did you participate as a Red or a Blue?	Red	1	4	4	4	13
	Blue	0	9	16	7	32
Total		1	13	20	11	45

After participating in the workshop, how, if at all, have your feelings changed in regards to your community's ability to have difficult conversations about community issues?

		More hopeful	Not sure	No change	Somewhat more hopeful	Total
For the purposes of the workshop, did you participate as a Red or a Blue?	Red	7	2	2	2	13
	Blue	7	6	3	16	32
Total		14	8	5	18	45

Program Snapshot: Skill Building

Sept.



Civil Leadership
in Today's Divided World:
An Introduction

Skills for Bridging the
Divide



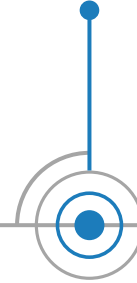
Oct.

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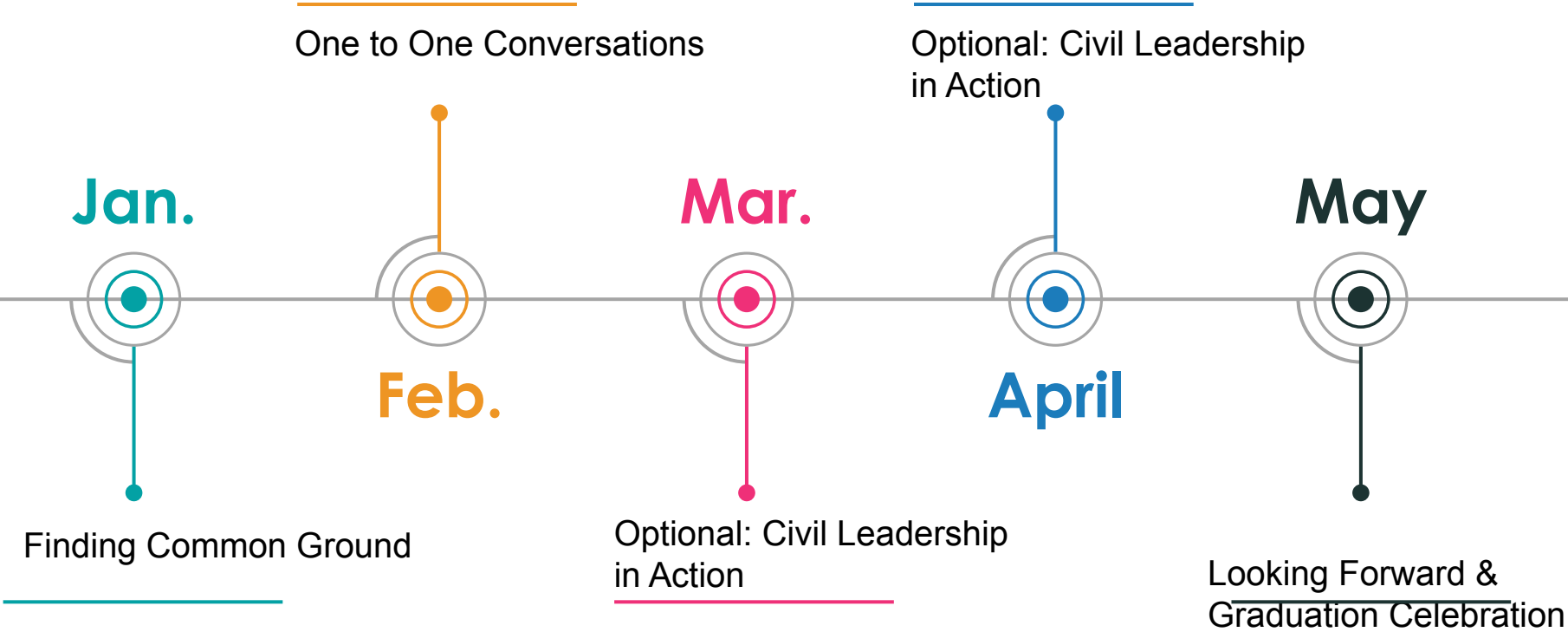
Growing Your Inner
Bridge Builder

Families and Politics



Dec.

Program Snapshot: Applying Skills



Common Ground Points of Agreement: COVID-19

Shared Values

We care about public good.

Each person has private decisions and personal responsibility for the public good. We own our own health and its impact on others

We are interdependent. We have to do something about how covid unfolds because we are interdependent.

We all want reliable news sources, without negligence, misinformation

Kids are better off learning in school

Masks are at least somewhat effective in mitigating the spread of Covid

Responsibility to self and others

Healthcare should be available to all who need it when they need it

Shared Concerns

We've given up / lost / restricted / some freedoms; after covid we want to getting back freedoms we're giving up now

A public health crisis and the great polarization of the country are exacerbating one another

Other public health issues are not getting enough attention, domestic violence, alcoholism, suicide and funding is even being lost for other issues

Lack of public transparency in decision making about Covid policies

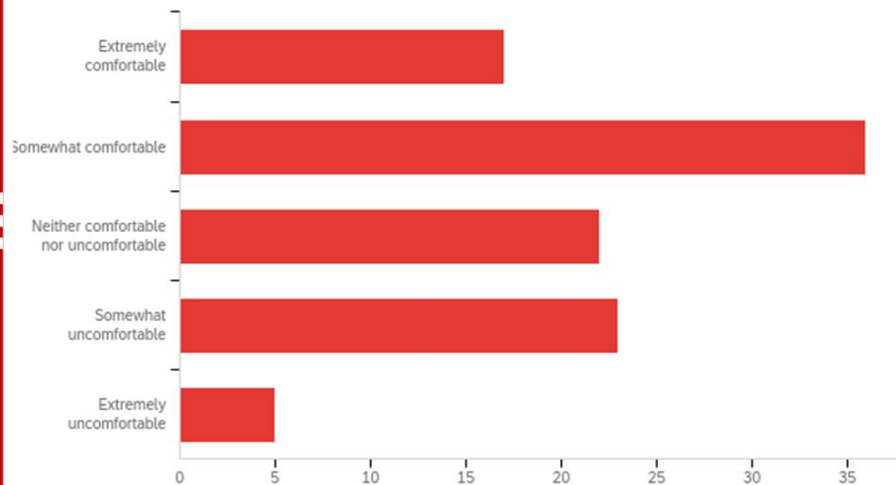
Risk of severe disease for some people

Solutions or Policies we can agree on

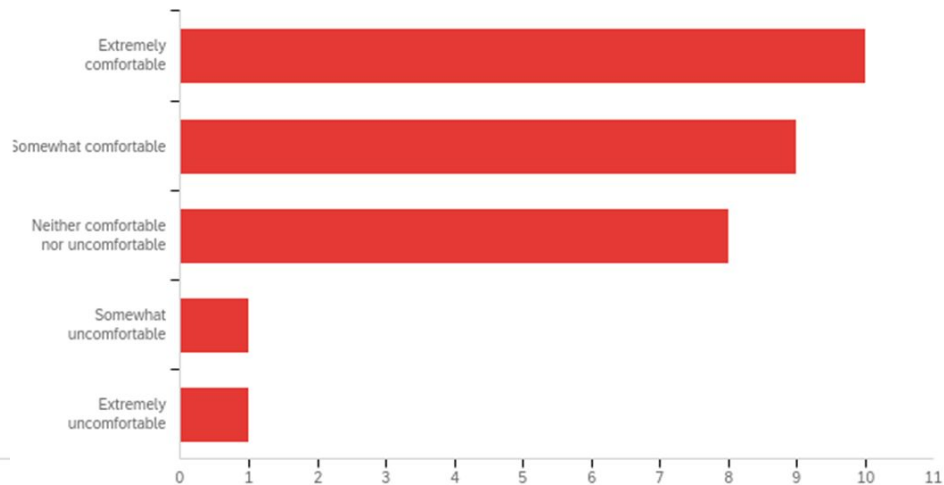
1. Use public health data to use for planning purposes, with attention to privacy laws and appropriate regulations.
2. Use masks in public places. Even if it's just a psychological reassurance, it's a small ask
3. CDC should honor federal open records requests. We shouldn't be hiding this and other information - we should have access the relevant data
4. Local establishments should be able to set their own policies for Covid vaccinations
5. There should be capacity restrictions on indoor venues during Covid spikes
6. There should be mask requirements for indoor venues during Covid spikes
7. Scarce healthcare resources should be managed so they can be available for everyone

How comfortable are you having friends who hold political perspectives opposite of your own?

Pre-Program Responses



Post-Program Responses



What are some of your biggest learnings and takeaways from this program?

- “Self reflection about how I can approach heated conversations in a more level headed manner.”
- “How important it is to truly listen.”
- “Listen more and judge less.”
- “Despite feeling strongly, wording ideas by paraphrasing can encourage the finding of common ground.”
- “Remaining curious and how to lead the conversation towards finding common ground.”
- “I’ve learned to not immediately react but to hear someone out and ask if they’d be willing to hear my opinion.”