



The Colorado Health Foundation™

Community Engagement Spectrum

The following community engagement scale is designed to support efforts to be more inclusive and elevate community voice. The Colorado Health Foundation holds the voice of those with less power, privilege and income, including communities of color as a cornerstone of our work. For the Equitable Community-Designed Outdoor Spaces funding opportunity, CHF is specifically looking for projects using **community owned** and/or **community driven** approaches.

Approach	Brief Description and Intent	Possible Tactics	Examples
Community Owned: <i>Community Ownership</i>	Community defines the issues, identifies the solutions and goals, and implements the solutions with all of the resources, parameters and decisions determined by community members. Decision-making authority has been turned over to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forming community working groups/action teams Community members are engaged in/positioned as key trusted grassroots community organizers/mobilizers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community working groups/action teams remain formalized to oversee ongoing efforts around space activation and that the project and its ongoing use meets the needs of the community as identified through the process. Structures of ongoing community engagement and connection are in place, which include mechanisms that can bring new learning and developing community contexts to the table for discussion.
Community Driven: <i>Delegated Power</i>	Community members define the issues, identify the solutions and implement the solutions. Community members are decision makers; however, resources, parameters, and goals are co-created and/or shared with a trusted organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forming community working groups/action teams Collaborating organizations are engaged in/positioned as key trusted grassroots community organizers/mobilizers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community working groups/action teams remain formalized to oversee ongoing efforts around space activation. Community understands they are the primary audience for the co-created space and are aware how to access and provide feedback to the organizations charged with ongoing maintenance.

<p>Community Shaped: <i>Voice & Power Shift</i></p>	<p>Community members and community trusted partners support defining, identifying, and implementing the solutions; however, the organization sets the parameters/boundaries and goals on which issues and solutions to support. As a result, there is greater intentionality on how community members are shaping decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory engagement, such as participation on planning and implementation teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members are invited to partner with youth serving organizations to help shape solutions, programs, and decision through a specific cultural context, such as through a youth advisory council.
<p>Community Informed: <i>Voice Elevated</i></p>	<p>The lead organization's practice centers on hearing directly from community members and trusted partners and working closely with the community. Strategies and associated tactics are informed by what is heard and learned from the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and involvement from direct community members, those with lived experiences, or partners who are trusted by the community / thought leaders (not just through intermediaries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members with expertise and lived experiences are invited to inform the decision making team. • Community members are invited to deeply understand and engage in the planning process. • Community members are extended agency and belonging that ensures their honest feedback is not just solicited, but crucial to realizing a meaningful project.
<p>Community Aware: <i>Educated</i></p>	<p>The grantee organization seeks various sources and outreaches to partners and stakeholders to understand community context.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass communications and engagement • Discussion forums • Research and data (surveys, focus groups) • Conversations with intermediaries, partners, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation with community members. • Review of targeted survey and focus group data for community themes. • Community needs assessments and other systematic processes for identifying the needs or gaps in service of a neighborhood, town, city, or state.