

## **CONDUCTING PUBLIC FORUMS AND LISTENING SESSIONS**

Public forums give people of diverse backgrounds a chance to express their views on the proposed work of your collaboration. When planning for public forums, consider potential barriers to accomplishing your goals. Oppositional community members may have valuable feedback, and may present alternative ways to address the problem. The following strategies will help you organize activities to involve the public in your planning.

- Hold meetings at different sites to get real representation
- Schedule forums at easy-to-find, public locations which are accessible and comfortable
- If possible, hold forums in the evening to avoid time conflicts with work and school
- Publicize forums as widely as possible
- Personally recruit community leaders and diverse community members to attend the meetings and ask them to recruit others as well
- Provide transportation to the meetings if necessary
- Serve light refreshments if possible