

# IDENTIFYING THE GOAL

## of your COMMUNITY CONVERSATION



As you are deciding your topic, you should also determine your goals for the conversation.

The below graphic outlines four goals you may wish to consider for your conversation. While they do not need to be mutually exclusive, often one of these goals will be the most predominant.



### EXPLORATION

**GOAL:**

Help people to learn more about themselves, their community or an issue

**POSSIBLE OUTCOME:**

Individual and/or community knowledge is expanded and innovative ideas arise



### CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

**GOAL:**

Address poor relationships or a specific conflict among individuals or groups

**POSSIBLE OUTCOME:**

Empathy and understanding is built among individuals, leading to better opportunities for conflict resolution



### DECISION-MAKING

**GOAL:**

Impact a decision or policy

**POSSIBLE OUTCOME:**

Public knowledge of an issue is improved and support is gathered for a chosen action



### COLLABORATIVE ACTION

**GOAL:**

Tackle complex problems as a group or community

**POSSIBLE OUTCOME:**

Shared responsibility and action is taken to address a specific issue

This graphic has been adapted from the *Engagement Streams Framework* developed by Sandy Heierbacher and the members of the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD) in 2005, which helps people decide which methods of dialogue and deliberation best fit their goals and resources.

For the full framework, go to [www.ncdd.org/streams](http://www.ncdd.org/streams)