

# Anchor Partners

Everyday Democracy works to improve the quality of civic life in the United States, build capacity within communities, and create a democracy where all voices are valued.

Everyday Democracy's Dialogue to Change engagement process and related resources offer a proven vehicle for organizing and dialogue to engage with others, address difficult issues, and lead to action and positive change.

Realizing that racism continues to have a deep impact on our country, and that progress in addressing racism leads to greater progress in other areas, Everyday Democracy includes a focus on structural racism in our discussion guides and resources.

Having worked with more than 600 communities throughout the country, we are now developing a network of Anchor Partners to deepen and expand our impact.



“In the same way that we need the physical infrastructure of roads, bridges, and buildings, we need to build, strengthen, and sustain civic infrastructure to support a strong democracy.”

—NEW HAMPSHIRE LISTENS

## How do anchors work?

Anchors are not funded by Everyday Democracy. Instead, we invest our time and resources in strengthening their capacity so that they are better poised to advance equitable community change and also leverage new partnerships and sources of support.

Anchors become part of an anchor network with us through which, collectively, we strengthen our practice and toolkits in such areas as coalition-building, organizing, facilitation, issue framing, evaluation, action planning, incorporating a racial equity lens, and more.

As anchor partners begin to gain or strengthen their capacity to train and coach local communities on dialogue-to-change and equity principles and practices, they become part of a learning community with other anchors and of regional and national efforts to build a national movement for an equitable and stronger democracy.

## What anchors do

- Build local capacity and coach communities in their state and/or region for embedding equity driven dialogue and action.
- Use, adapt, and share tools and advice.
- Collaborate with us and other anchor partners on regional or national projects or conferences.
- Assess and share with us how their work is impacting the communities they work with.
- Share stories of community change.
- Contribute to a national network and movement for building an equitable democracy that works for all.

## Currently Everyday Democracy has Six Anchor Partners:

### New Hampshire Listens Durham, NH

New Hampshire Listens is a civic engagement initiative of the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire. Their mission is to help NH residents talk and work together to create communities that work for everyone. [NHListens.org](http://NHListens.org)



### Montana State University Extension – Community Development Bozeman, MT

The community development arm of Montana State University Extension focuses on community engagement, leadership development, economic vitality, civic, local government and deliberative democracy. [msucommunitydevelopment.org](http://msucommunitydevelopment.org)



### InterFaith Works Syracuse, NY

Founded in 1976 to build bridges of understanding among people of different religions and across racial divides, InterFaith Works uses tools of interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue to address deeply embedded social divisions. [interfaithworkscny.org](http://interfaithworkscny.org)



### West Virginia Center for Civic Life Charleston, WV

The West Virginia Center for Civic Life is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that helps engage our citizens in community discussions of important public issues that affect our state and nation. [wvcivillife.org](http://wvcivillife.org)



### Project Ujima, Inc. Akron, OH

Project Ujima is a grassroots community engagement organization that teaches and facilitates "circle" processes that enable diverse citizens to come together to discuss issues of shared concern. The organization is named after the third principle Kwanzaa, which means "Collective Work and Responsibility." [projectujima-inc.org](http://projectujima-inc.org)



### Housing Partnership West Palm Beach, FL

Housing Partnership is a member of Community Partners and a chartered affiliate of NeighborWorks America, a national network focused on community development and affordable housing. [cp-cto.org](http://cp-cto.org)



## Learn more

If you would like to learn more about becoming an Everyday Democracy Anchor Partner, Contact Valeriano Ramos, our Director of Strategic Alliances and Partnerships, at [vramos@everyday-democracy.org](mailto:vramos@everyday-democracy.org) to start a conversation.

For more information about Everyday Democracy, visit [everyday-democracy.org](http://everyday-democracy.org)

