

## Civic Engagement

### Why we chose this topic:

- Heart of D.C, democracy
- Harder for communities to come together for problem solving
- Need voice of voiceless
- Focus programs
- People struggle individually, help to get involved in communities
- How to engage people in government
- Government as service providers, public seen as consumers
- How to get people (new, younger) to step up and be active
- Get people involved – directly ask them

### Opportunities:

- Millennials – don't like current processes, especially government processes, organizations.
- Need meaning to community activity
- Coalitions – qualitative characteristics of successful coalitions
- Community profiles – action committees take over (coach rather than do projects)

### Move Forward:

- Make sure extension, DEC is at the table in committees
- Local support – recognition of programs, services, resources, capabilities at no/low cost
- Bring students to mix in with communities, from campus, add education
- Extension in demand but need to be more effective, efficient
- Networking with local decision-makers/mover/shakers
- Coaching (horizon's project example) – rather than doing
- Increase extension staff at county/community level
- Alternative methods to meetings
  - o Social media
  - o Posters
  - o Chalk art
  - o Story telling
  - o Online maps
  - o Online comments, discussion
- Need millennials? Ask them.

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