

# NH Listens Supports Local Listens Organizations

- Local Listens organizations are founded and operated independently by citizen leaders in communities and regions located across New Hampshire. Sometimes local Listens groups are affiliated with existing nonprofit organizations, and sometimes they are stand-alone organizations that may or may not be formally incorporated. Local Listens organizations are not a part of any one governmental group, but they work collaboratively with all community entities and decision makers.
- Each local Listens organization is expected to create a nonpartisan, fair, and transparent process, without advocating for a specific cause or agenda, thus local leaders are drawn from all sectors and political points of view. All local Listens groups operate by common guiding principles for effective public engagement. NH Listens networks with other Listens organizations to strengthen citizen engagement in our communities, our region, and our state.
- Local Listens groups are not particularly expensive to run. Often they are connected to other 501c3 organizations or seek a fiscal sponsor if needed for a large project. NH Listens has some matching funds provided by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to support the development of local Listens organizations.
- Local Listens organizations organize outreach to establish an ongoing presence in your community. They build relationships, so when the time comes to launch a specific community-wide conversation, there is a network of decision makers and thought leaders who know and trust the work.
- Local Listens groups do not replace elected leaders or formal decision makers, but they augment the process by creating opportunities for people to engage civilly and respectfully on issues that impact their daily lives.



[www.nhlistens.org](http://www.nhlistens.org)

