

NH LISTENS Vision, Mission, and Values

Our Vision

We envision a New Hampshire where residents are connected, engaged and heard in decisions that impact their lives and where all have equitable access to justice, opportunity, and liberty.

Our Mission

Our mission is to help New Hampshire residents talk, listen, and act together so communities can work for everyone.

Our Values

Voice and Equity

Nothing about us without usⁱ

We help communities bring people together to deepen authentic participation in issues that matter to public life. Old patterns exist in communities that elevate the voices of some and marginalize others. We believe when people can bring voice and agency to community decision making, fair and equitable outcomes are possible and more likely. We help actively remove barriers to inclusive public participation, honor a full range of community interests, and ground solutions in local knowledge.

Authenticity and Integrity

Be real

We work in service of the public to generate solutions for our most pressing challenges – even when the work is messy, uncertain, and overwhelming. We believe in doing what we say we will do and being transparent in our methods and our motives. Building public trust takes time and ongoing attention. We offer skilled, observant, and honest people to support your initiative.

Collaboration and Partnership

*The only cure for bias is other people**

We know collaboration can be hard, and we believe solving complex problems will require it. A mix of perspectives helps us recognize and temper our own biases (we all have them). We help groups face biases (of all kinds) and bring skills and attitudes that build trust for ongoing partnership and community good will.

Complexity and Humility

There are things we don't know

Our communities struggle with difficult questions to which no one person knows the answer. We bring humility and a can-do attitude to our work. We believe it takes data and stories from neighbors to create change. We don't assert our own answers. Instead, we create space to grapple with hard options and find pathways to move forward together.

Persistence and Flexibility

We are in it for the long haul

We respond to current circumstances in local communities and bridge projects by committing to New Hampshire over the long haul. Most communities experience multiple initiatives that lack connection and integration. Our goal is to leave behind approaches that build muscle memory for deep fairness and effective collaboration so that one project brings strengths and capacity to the next one.

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¹ Nothing About Us Without Us: Disability Oppression and Empowerment, James I. Charlton (1998), JSTOR online access.

ⁱ The Righteous Mind by Jonathan Haidt