

Thank you for joining us.  
The workshop will begin shortly.

# ***Introduction to Deliberative Talk-to-Action Initiatives***

December 4, 2025  
2:00 EST

# ***Welcome***

## ***Introduction to Deliberative Talk-to-Action Initiatives***

**December 4, 2025**

**2:00 EST**



## Talk. Decide. Act.

### Fall 2025 Workshop Series

#### TALK

Introduction to  
Moderating for  
Deliberation



Oct. 9, 2025  
2:00 PM ET

#### DECIDE

Introduction to  
Deliberative  
Framing



Nov. 6, 2025  
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#### ACT

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Learn more & register at  
[www.nifi.org/workshops](http://www.nifi.org/workshops)

## Today's agenda

- **Defining** public acting
- **Practices to build initiatives that** support movement from talk to action
- **Resources** to support your work
- **Learning from each other:** questions, insights, challenges

# The National Issues Forums Institute

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A **nonpartisan nonprofit** that equips, empowers, and mobilizes people to use **deliberation** to take action for the public good.



*Equip*



*Empower*



*Mobilize*

# What Are National Issues Forums?

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- Convened by a **national network** of individuals and organizations
- Using **deliberative practices** that promote nonpartisan, multi-perspective discussions
- On **issues** of national scope that impact communities across the country



# Deliberation: What is it? Why do it?

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**Democracy** is strengthened when individuals, institutions, and governments find ways to talk and work with each other.

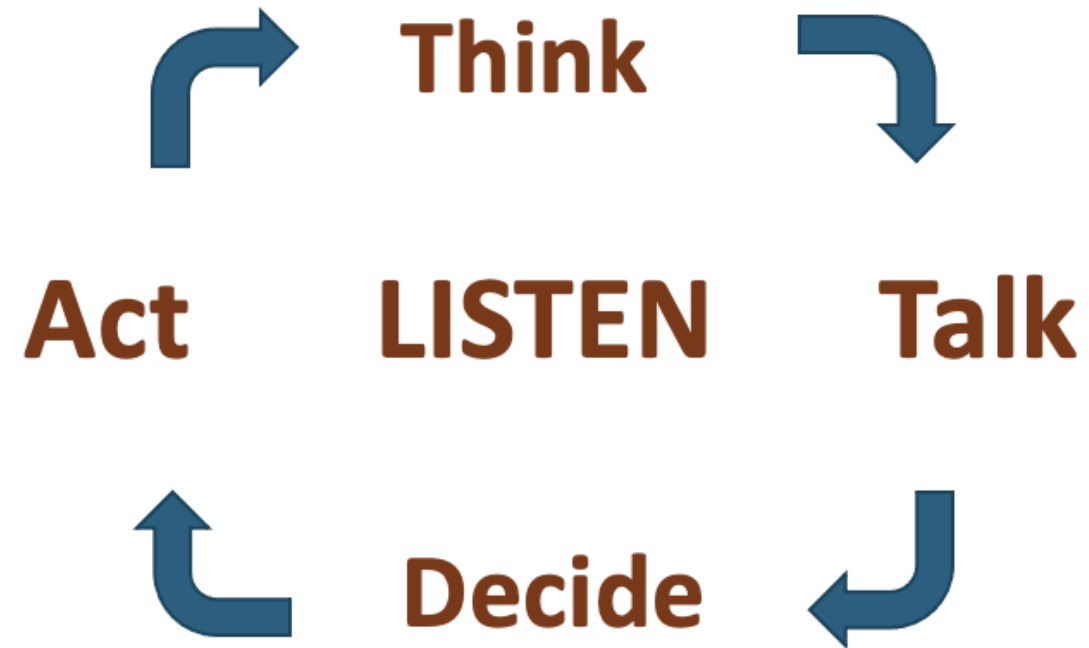
**Deliberative discussions** of issues that impact our lives make a profound contribution to our capacity to do just that.

## PUBLIC DELIBERATION

- Brings the public together to work through and take ownership of a problem.
- Encourages participants to talk through rather than just about an issue.
- Asks citizens to work through tensions, weigh tradeoffs, and make choices.
- Helps community members identify areas of common ground for taking action.
- Views citizens as actors rather than passive recipients of democracy.

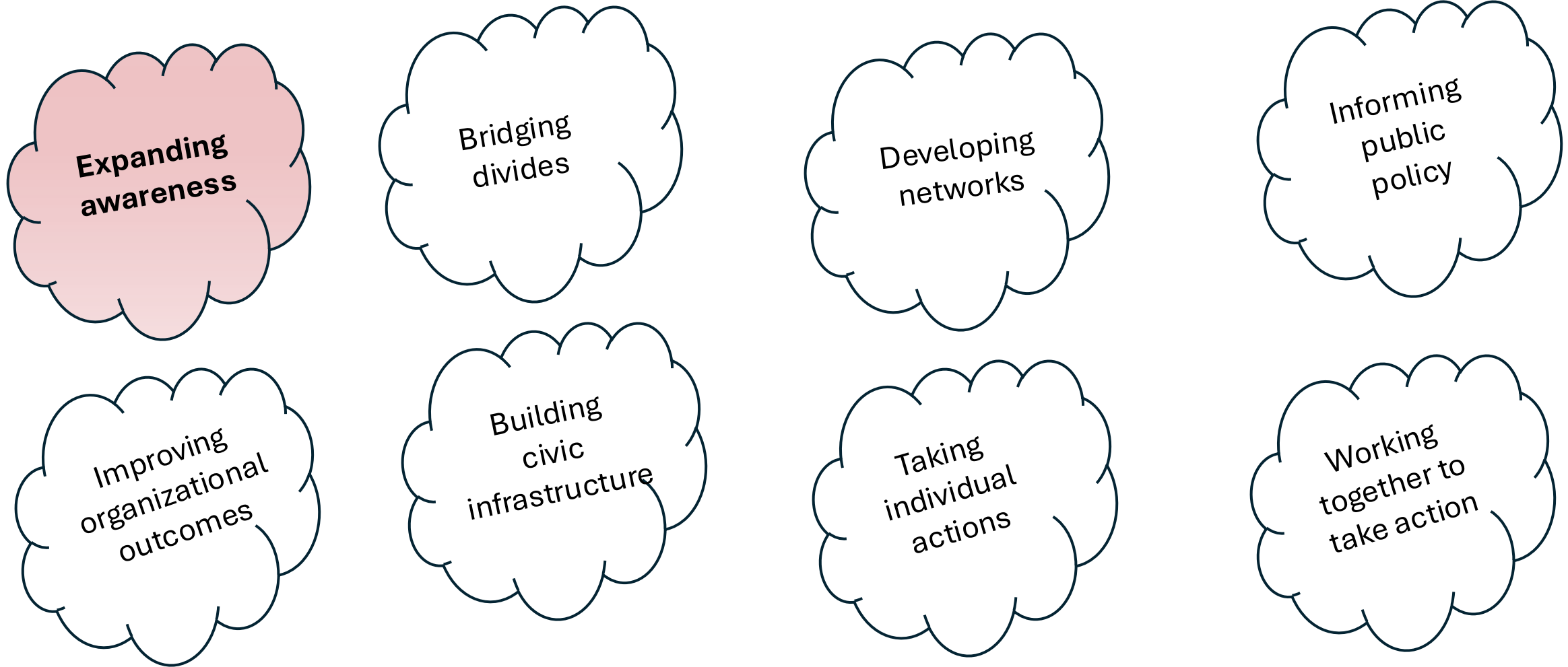
# Dynamic communities . . .

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# Potential impacts of deliberation

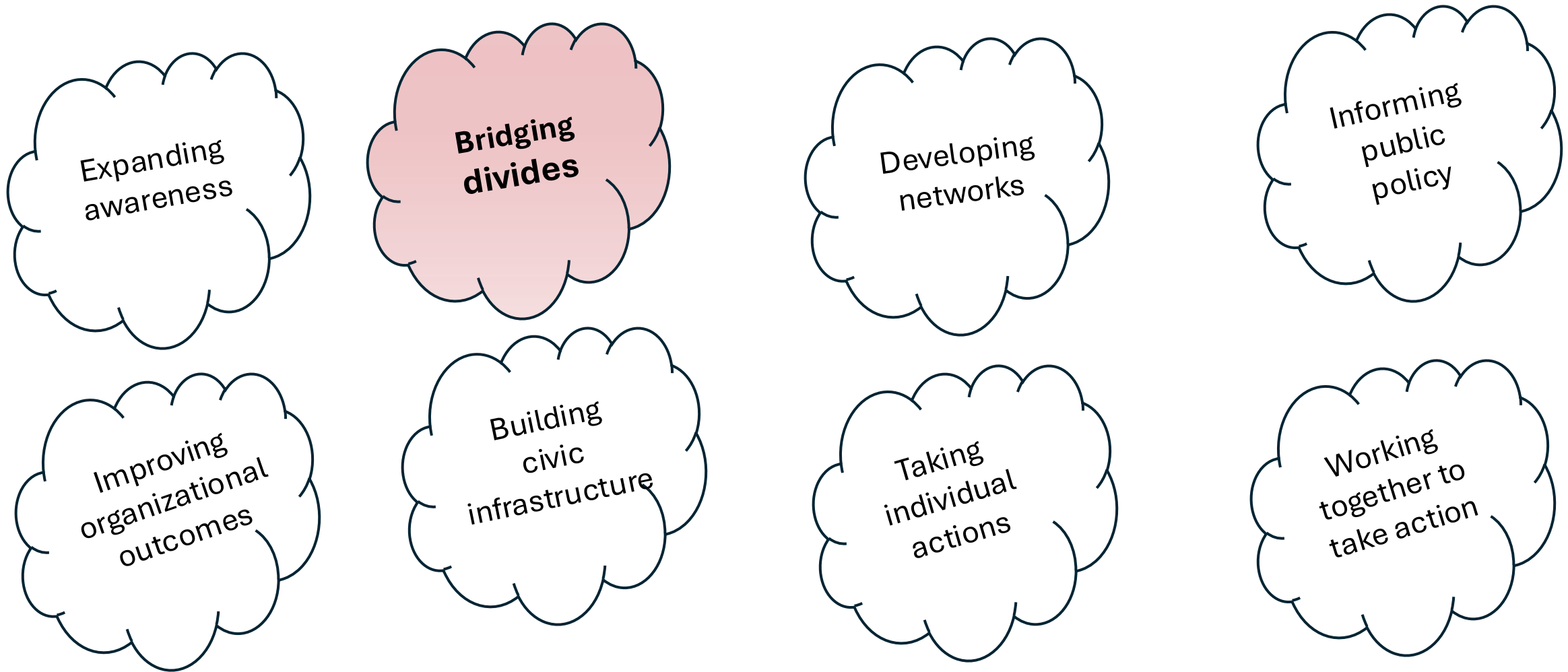
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# Potential impacts of deliberation

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# Potential impacts of deliberation

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Expanding  
awareness

Bridging  
divides

**Developing  
networks**

Informing  
public  
policy

Improving  
organizational  
outcomes

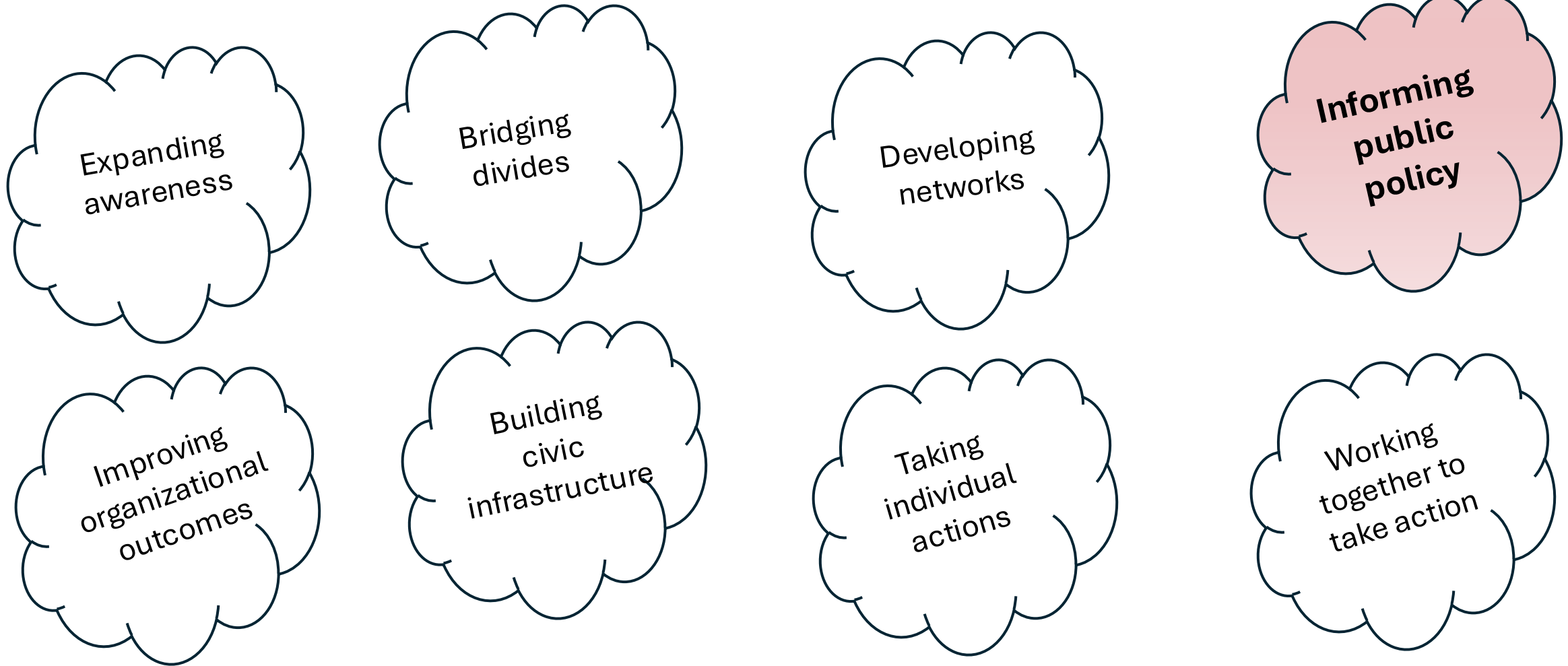
Building  
civic  
infrastructure

Taking  
individual  
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Working  
together to  
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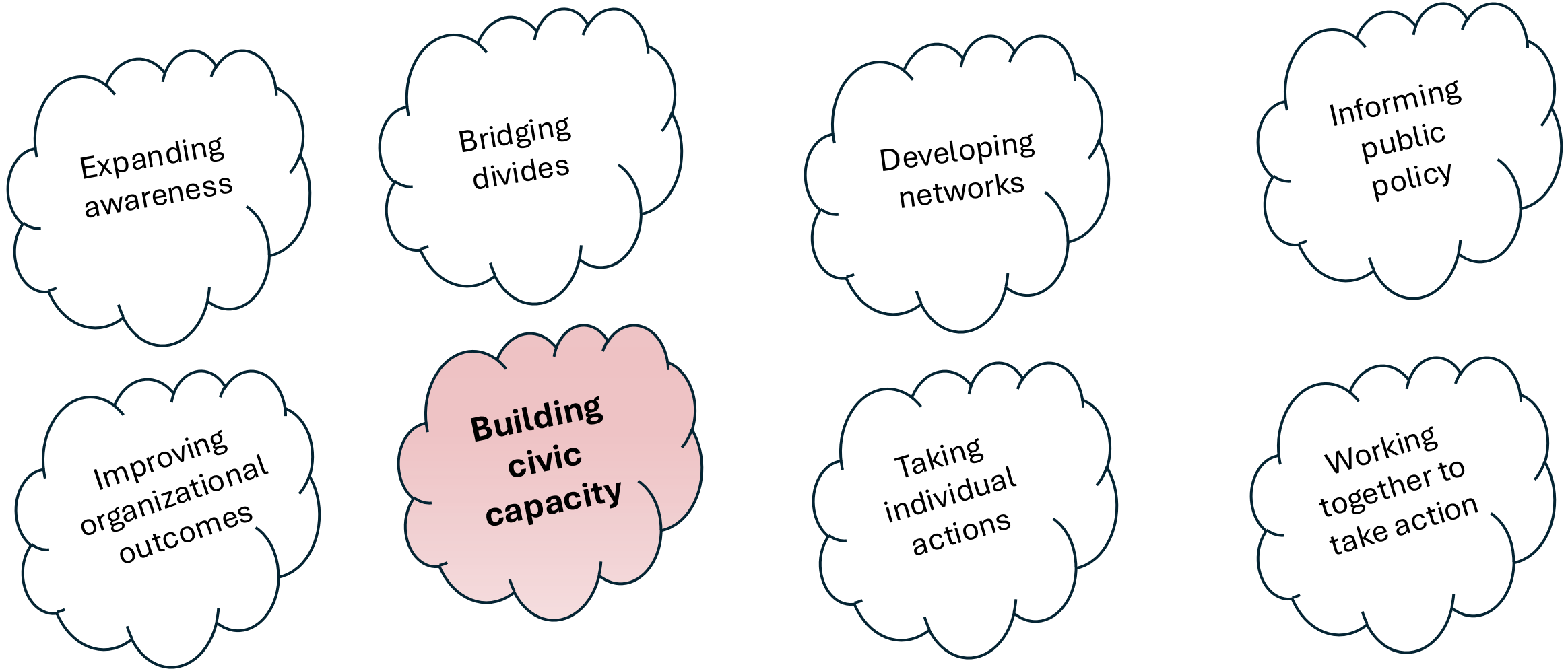
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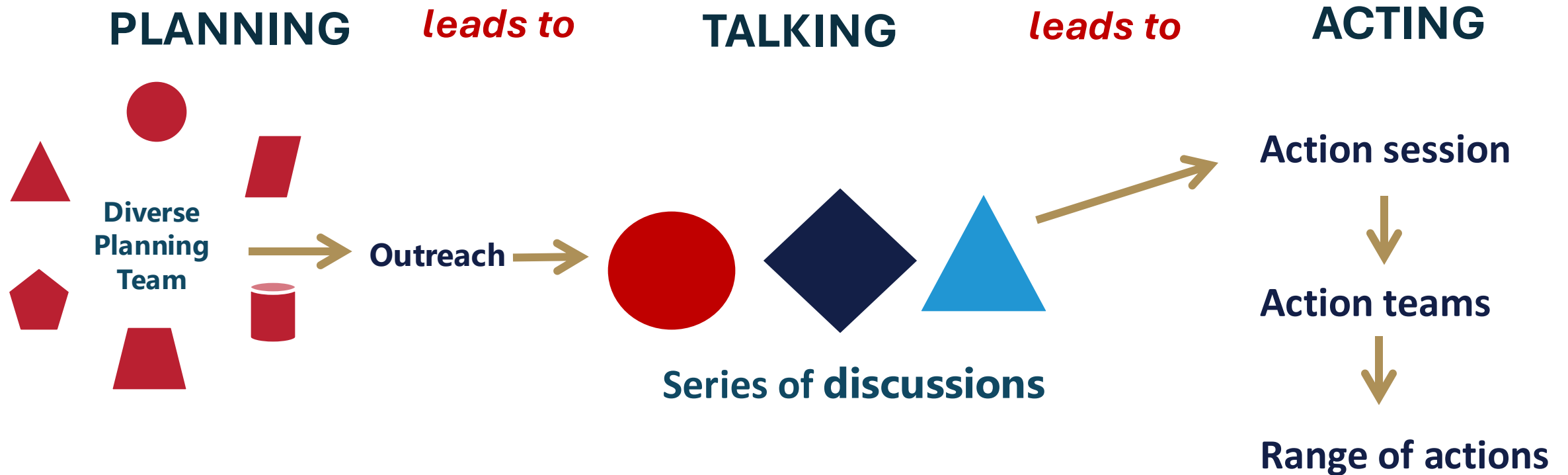
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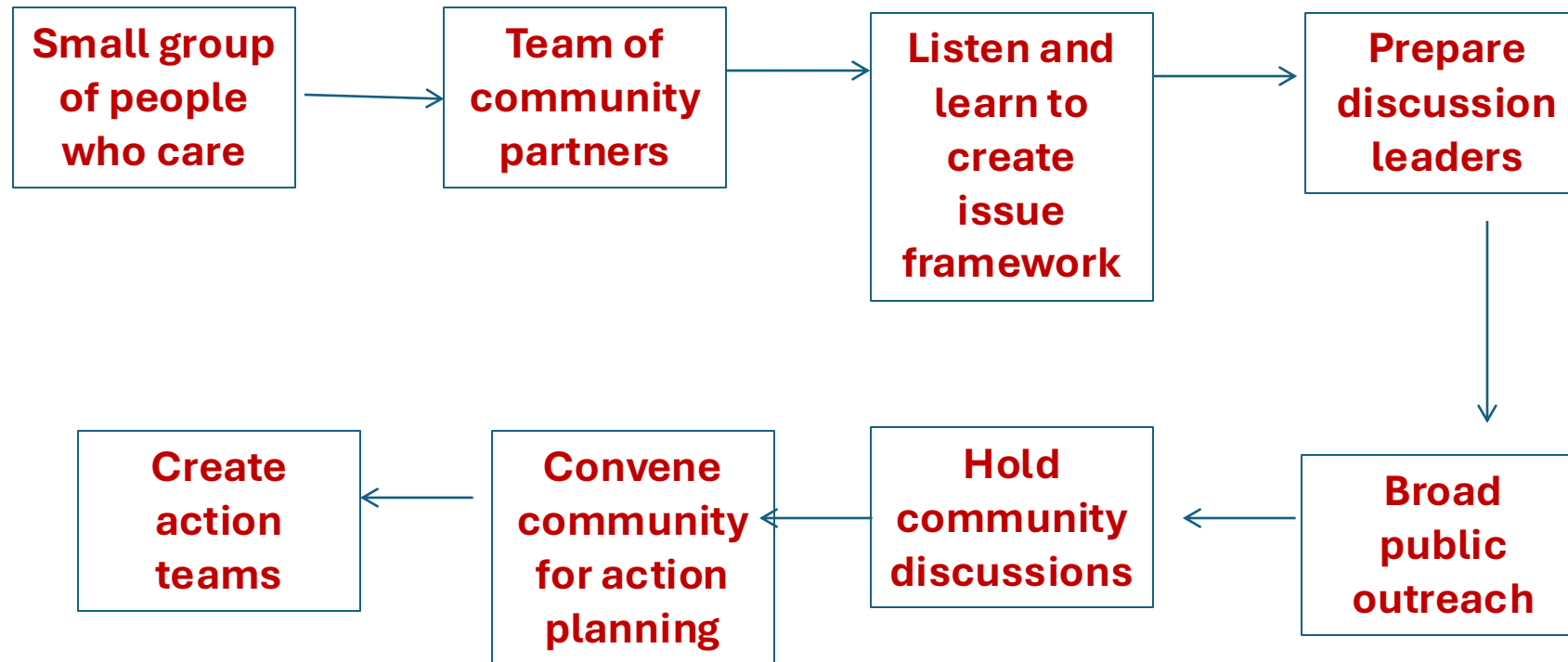
# Deliberation leading to action





# Potential elements of talk-to-action initiatives

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# Bring the community together for action planning

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Pull together the major needs and action ideas from community discussions

## Community-wide "Action Summit"

- As you look at what has emerged from our forums, is there anything missing that you think is essential? Do you have concerns that haven't been identified?
- What actions are doable now—in terms of time, energy, and resources—that address these needs?
- What actions require additional long-term conversation and planning?
- What action group(s) would you like to join? Who will convene the first gathering of each group?
- How will the groups communicate their progress and challenges?

# Actions for individuals, groups, organizations, & policymakers

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## From a county-wide initiative related to substance abuse

- Start a Narcotics Anonymous group
- Develop system to match needs and volunteer service
- Organize school-based forums by led by students
- Educate others about dangers of sharing meds, refrain from sharing
- Hold discussions between judicial system and those incarcerated for drug offenses
- Raise funds for treatment center
- Volunteer and/or recruit reading tutors for K-3 students
- Work toward legislative action to guide pharmacies & physicians
- Begin Boys Club/Girls Club

# America's Next 250: What's Next, America?



# Initiative Description

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To mark our nation's Semiquincentennial in 2026, the National Issues Forums Institute is launching **America's Next 250: What's Next, America?** The initiative will provide tools and resources for Americans to address a challenge or build on an opportunity in their neighborhoods, communities, classrooms, and beyond. Through deliberative discussion guides, talk-to-action trainings, and a nationwide story-gathering effort, America's Next 250 will elevate local problem-solving, connect civic actors, and answer the hopeful question:

**"What's Next, America?"**





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# Share Your Feedback!



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***Thank you*** for joining us!

Please stay in touch.

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**Email:** [cbrowner@nifi.org](mailto:cbrowner@nifi.org)