



A New National Network from E Pluribus: Social Cohesion Peer Network

Why This Network Matters

America is experiencing shifting demographics. Over the last 40 years, the number of immigrants in the U.S. has tripled, and communities across the nation have experienced rapid immigration growth. Communities across the country are looking for practical ways to build trust across differences, strengthen relationships, and create conditions where communities have the relationships and capacity to act collectively. Yet the practice of social cohesion is still emerging, and organizations often lack opportunities to learn from peers who are testing similar approaches in different local contexts.

The Social Cohesion Peer Network is designed to help build that infrastructure. Rather than offering a one-time learning series, the Network will connect practitioners, researchers, community organizations, and civic leaders to learn from one another, share promising practices and challenges, and strengthen the field of local social cohesion practitioners and initiatives.

Who Should Join

The Social Cohesion Peer Network brings together organizations and practitioners interested in building trust across differences and strengthening social cohesion in their communities. Participants may include community development organizations, immigrant-serving organizations, local governments, anchor institutions, researchers, practitioners, and national organizations.

Organizations do not need to be actively implementing a social cohesion initiative to participate in the broader **Learning Network**. The Learning Network is intended to build the field, share knowledge, connect practitioners, introduce evidence-informed frameworks such as Contact Theory, and create opportunities to learn from communities testing different approaches.

A smaller **Community of Practice (CoP)** will operate within the broader Network for organizations that are already designing, launching, implementing, or scaling social cohesion initiatives. Not all organizations accepted into the Learning Network will be invited to participate in the CoP. The CoP is intentionally smaller to create a practitioner-centered space for deeper peer coaching, candid problem-solving, and implementation support.

What You'll Gain

The Network is designed to cultivate relationships, accelerate learning across communities, and build practical knowledge grounded in implementation experience. Participants in the broader Learning Network will learn from evidence-informed frameworks, community examples, and one another while exchanging tools, adaptations, successes, and challenges.

Together, the **Learning Network** will explore topics such as:

- Foundations of social cohesion
- Contact Theory and its application in local communities
- Building trust across differences
- Resident leadership and inclusive engagement
- Cross-cultural communication
- Addressing polarization
- Measuring trust and learning from community experience
- Community showcases featuring what organizations are testing, adapting, and learning
- Collaborative problem-solving around common implementation challenges
- Emerging models, tools, and promising practices from communities across the country

Organizations selected for the **Community of Practice** will participate in deeper implementation-focused learning in addition to the broader Learning Network. CoP sessions will include case consultation, peer coaching, implementation troubleshooting, and brief learning segments. Topics may include:

- Designing a social cohesion initiative, including selecting the right community issue
- Applying Contact Theory in practice
- Resident recruitment
- Facilitation skills for building trust and managing conflict
- Navigating power dynamics and shared decision-making
- Evaluation approaches, including surveys, stories, and reflection methods
- Institutional partnerships, funding strategies, and sustaining the work
- Adaptive learning focused on current implementation challenges

Community of Practice organizations will also receive individualized technical assistance from E Pluribus to help adapt evidence-informed social cohesion practices to their unique demographic, institutional, and cultural contexts.

Logistics

Format: Virtual learning network with a broader Learning Network and a smaller practitioner Community of Practice

Deadline for Interest Form: September 15, 2026

Learning Network Meeting Schedule

- **October 5, 2026** | 11:30 AM–1:30 PM ET
- **December 3, 2026** | 10:30 AM–12:00 PM ET
- **February 4, 2027** | 11:30 AM–1:00 PM ET
- **April 15, 2027** | 11:30 AM–1:00 PM ET

Community of Practice Meeting Schedule

- **November 5, 2026** | 11:30 AM–1:00 PM ET
- **January 7, 2027** | 11:30 AM–1:00 PM ET
- **March 4, 2027** | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM ET
- **May 6, 2027** | 11:30 AM–1:00 PM ET

Learning Network Size: Approximately 15 organizations from across the United States

Community of Practice Size: Approximately 3–5 organizations

Cost: Free to participate

Commitment: Learning Network participants are expected to engage in learning sessions, share experiences and promising practices, contribute to peer discussions, and support a collaborative learning environment. Community of Practice participants will make an additional commitment to deeper peer learning, candid case consultation, implementation troubleshooting, and individualized technical assistance.

Technical Assistance for Community of Practice: Participating organizations may have access to technical assistance, as capacity allows.

Selection Process: For those interested in participating, please complete the Interest Form [here](#). We will review submissions to select participants representing a diversity of organization types, geographies, experiences, and stages of social cohesion work. We will also consider each organization's learning goals, current challenges, and interest in contributing to a collaborative learning environment.

A smaller group of organizations that are already designing, implementing, or expanding social cohesion initiatives may also be invited to participate in the Community of Practice.

Why E Pluribus?

E Pluribus is a national initiative advancing immigrant-inclusive economic development. Through peer learning networks, research, technical assistance, and field building, we connect practitioners across the country to strengthen local economies through immigrant inclusion. E Pluribus is a program of

Global Detroit, which has developed experience leading peer networks around welcoming economies, international student retention, and immigrant startups over the past decade.