

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION EXERCISE**

You are a community development specialist employed by the County Health Department (CHD). The council is a public county agency that is funded by a combination of county, state, federal, and grant funds. In the last year, CHD received a five-year, annually renewable grant from a federal agency. The grant stipulates that the lead agency (i.e., CHD) will organize citizen action groups in year one of the grant to plan community strategies for increasing immunization rates. The strategies are to be implemented in years two through five of the grant. At the end of the grant period, community health status will be measured to gauge if the prevalence of immunization increased in the County.

As the community development specialist for CHD, you have been assigned to organize the citizen action groups and facilitate the group's development of community strategies. To date, you have had great success in identifying community members to participate on the action groups. The community members represent different community sectors including health care specialists, law enforcement agencies, educators, business leaders, clergy, and interested citizens. In all 60 people have agreed to participate in the action groups.

At the first meeting, 54 people attended the action groups. At the second meeting, attendance dropped to 42 people. At the third and fourth meetings, less than half of the members attended the meetings. You are concerned about the dwindling participation at the planning meetings. What do you do to increase participation.

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