

## Base-Building Workgroup US for All of Us

**What is it?** This workgroup will function as a learning and action cohort that develops ideas and strategies for building, activating and sustaining local networks of white racial justice activists. This workgroup will also support groups in forming alliances with organizations led by people of color, the national US for All of Us network and other organizing efforts.

**Who's involved in the workgroup?** People actively organizing community-based networks of white racial justice activists, including local coordinators, leaders and organizers as well as groups that are base building in white communities. Having one designated person from each local formation who consistently participates is ideal.

### **What will the workgroup do?**

- Meet regularly to share experiences and learn from each other;
- Generate ideas and options for building active networks and addressing key challenges;
- Develop strategies and opportunities to engage the base in useful action; and
- Help produce and share resources, models, lessons and ideas that may be useful to others.

**When will the workgroup meet?** Initially, the workgroup will meet monthly by conference call. If possible, a regular day and time, agreeable to the participants, will be selected.

**What happens at workgroup meetings?** The meetings will involve peer-to-peer sharing of experiences, brainstorming ideas and strategies, and supporting each other in planning next steps and actions. A typical agenda for the conference calls may include:

1. *Experiential Component:* brief updates from representatives from each local network (perhaps 2 minutes per update);

2. *Learning Component:* collectively explore a selected question, challenge or topic. Sometimes we may invite an experienced person or outside guest to present something s/he knows well. Example discussion questions/topics:

- How and where can we recruit new people to get involved in racial justice work?
- How can we build a core leadership and a group structure that's efficient and productive?
- How can we most easily engage people in useful actions?
- How can we effectively connect with organizations of color?
- How can we respond to a local political development or current event?
- How can we build a base in a rural areas and small towns? Big cities? Suburbs? Or online?
- How can we effectively talk about racism with white acquaintances in our daily lives?
- How can we expand our public presence?

Note: The idea is not to come up with a single model. Rather, we want to lift up useful lessons and insights, while being open-minded to many different strategies. Some approaches may only work in a particular place, while others may have replicable or adaptable elements.

3. *Action Component:* based on the discussion and learning, participants can share any strategy or action ideas they may wish to pursue and identify any support they may want or need.

**Who will lead the Workgroup?** The current conveners/leaders will serve for a transitional period of 3 months. After the group is established, the group can select its leadership. The leader(s) will help plan and facilitate the calls, communicate with other leaders of US for all of Us, and coordinate any other workgroup activities. The initiators for the first calls are Cameron Levin <struggle@earthlink.net> and Terry Keleher <tkeleher@arc.org>.