

# Have you been asked to join a listening session?

## Here's what to expect!

### **What is [YOUR STATION NAME]?**

Explain your station, coverage area, mission statement

### **What is a listening session?**

Listening sessions create space for public media news teams and community members to talk freely about important topics. News teams focus on listening and learning, while community members share thoughts, ideas, aspirations, experience and knowledge. Listening sessions are small, informal conversations that are usually not recorded.

### **What are the goals of these listening sessions?**

We hope to build knowledge and understanding of your community and to give community groups and individuals time to share what is missed or misunderstood in most news coverage. The goal for the news team is to make sure reporting and engagement is thoughtful, thorough and representative of all people who live in your community. We hope to identify gaps and blind spots in our reporting. In most cases, nothing said in a listening session will be used in a story, though we may reach out to you at a later date to ask if you'd be willing to speak on the record.

### **Why should you attend a listening session?**

It is an opportunity to meet local news reporters and share your experiences, concerns, hopes and aspirations for your community. Also, it is an opportunity to meet with neighbors and fellow residents. You'll have a chance to discuss issues and ask questions of people who may have experiences similar to your own.

### **What kind of questions can you expect?**

What should we know about your community? What is missed?

What are your community's biggest hopes and challenges?

How can we do better in covering your community?

What do you want to know about how we work?

Other questions more relevant to this particular listening session.

### **What can you expect after a listening session takes place?**

We welcome an ongoing relationship, or at least an open door. You can reach us anytime and we will reach out to you periodically to hear what has changed and what you are seeing and hearing in your community.

This guide for listening session participants was created by Robin Tate Rockel, community engagement manager of Indiana Public Broadcasting.