



For Immediate Release
Monday, Feb. 28, 2011

Contact: Carrie Shaw
(425) 344-1787

Countywide Forums to Tackle Equity and Economic Growth Issues
Community-based forums to focus on barriers to human and health services access
and job growth across King County

SEATTLE – King County’s nationally recognized Countywide Community Forums (CCF) announced today the main topics for this spring’s Round 7 forums. Called “*Equity and Economic Opportunity Across King County*,” the forums will ask county residents to look at health issues and human potential related to disadvantaged communities, barriers to economic growth, and challenges facing urban and rural unincorporated areas of the county. Forums throughout King County and online participation are scheduled to begin in mid-April. To register or learn more go to CommunityForums.org or call toll-free at (800) 369-2584.

John Spady, citizen coordinator for CCF, says that many “important and probing questions about where we’re going as a county” need consideration and discussion among its residents. “The topic for Round 7 is very much a continuation of the conversation about budget priorities and reinventing how county government delivers its services. Questions such as, ‘what are the barriers to improving participation in democracy or to more efficient distribution of government services? Should we invest in prevention or intervention? What are the minimum levels of service that are acceptable?’ These are the types of important questions we plan to address,” Spady says.

Countywide Community Forums is a King County program that gives residents the opportunity to discuss and provide input to county decision-makers on important policy issues like budget priorities, transportation, and public safety. The CCF program is unique because it allows residents to meet online or in person to share ideas about how to make the county better.

For Round 7, participants will provide input through a survey with a focus on solutions in key areas: Equity issues related to health and human services, barriers to job creation and business growth, and challenges for Unincorporated areas of King County in providing services in an era of budget shortfalls. Results of the CCF survey will be released to the public and media in June. Results from past Rounds are available online [at the Auditor’s website](#).

A record 766 people participated last fall in Round 6. Over 2,000 people have registered to serve as a *Citizen Councilor* since the program began in 2007. Tim O’Reilly, internationally recognized leader of the Gov 2.0 movement, and the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2.org) have recognized CCF as an innovative project designed to encourage civic engagement.

The CCF program uses no taxpayer funds and is free to participants. Anyone living or working in King County is welcome to participate. The program is overseen by the King County Auditor’s office and is managed by the volunteer leadership.

Powered by YOUR opinions™

CommunityForums.org

CommunityForums@KingCounty.gov

[\(800\) 369-2584](tel:(800)369-2584)