

# Aspirations

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Talk about aspirations and find common ground for working with others.

Take a moment to focus on your community aspirations and to identify next steps you want in creating change. Add your aspirations, challenges, and the new conditions to create in the spaces provided below. Use this on your own and then try it in a group setting - we have a facilitator's guide to help in leading an aspirations conversation.

## ASPIRATIONS

My aspirations for my community are:

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## CHALLENGES

The challenges we face in reaching these aspirations are:

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## NEW CONDITIONS

The changes needed in my community to reach our aspirations are:

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(continued on the back)

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Create a story for your community. Describe the key insights from the first page as a single word or phrase. Write down that word or phrase in the corresponding sentence below to create your story. Use this story as a reminder of your goals and share it with others.

## My community Aspirations

My hope is to live in a community where \_\_\_\_\_ (aspirations).

However, right now we face \_\_\_\_\_ (challenges).

In order to get there as a community, we need to \_\_\_\_\_  
(new conditions, change).

## HOW TO MAKE IT WORK

- 1 Post this in your office or at home. Remind yourself to refer back to it. Ask yourself: Am I focused on my aspirations?
- 2 Share this exercise with others to find common ground - with your co-workers, at your place of worship, with friends, your PTA, your board, etc. Ask: How can our efforts reflect these shared aspirations?
- 3 Use these questions with others to begin finding shared community aspirations. Get the Aspirations Facilitator's Guide - instructions on how to lead the conversation: [www.theharwoodinstitute.org/harwoodhalfhour](http://www.theharwoodinstitute.org/harwoodhalfhour)

Next Step? Register for a Harwood Learning Experience, like a Public Innovators Lab, read a Harwood book, sign up for our weekly blog for inspiration and news, try another Harwood in a Half Hour.