

Wisdom Collaborative

Engaging Encores in Community Problem Solving

Background

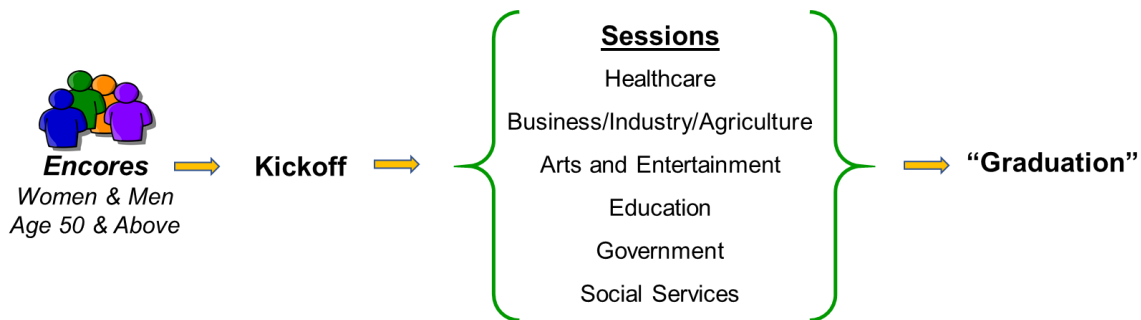
Encores are people 50+ years of age who want to do something different with the second half of their lives. This is a County-level program that focusses on using the skills/knowledge/passions of this age group to solve problems in their community.

In Lake County, approximately 47% of the population is 50 years of age or older. Fifty-five percent of Lake County's workforce work outside of Lake County. As they move into retirement, it would be advantageous to tap into these folks who may have never engaged in their communities and also those who have. The Wisdom Collaborative is designed to do that.

This type of engagement is separate from volunteerism activities that are already available today in Lake County.

Program Description

Annually, there will be eight sessions over a four-month period. The kickoff is followed by six sessions (two 6-hour sessions per month) where you learn about the community and its needs. The sessions lay the groundwork for participants to choose a project. Following "graduation," the graduates choose their project on which they commit to spending at least 20 hours.



Projects

Projects can be in any sector of the community—nonprofit, government, business or education. A graduate can work on their chosen problem individually or with other graduates, alumni (in the future) or people in the community. The project can be on any level from a neighborhood to county-wide.

Partnerships/Collaboration

Encore NEO is partnering with Lakeland Community College and Leadership Lake County.

Cost

The funding mechanism is being worked on. It will include grants, donations, in-kind services and participant tuition.

Additional Information

The Encore NEO website (www.encoreneo.org) will have additional information as it becomes available.

