OVERVIEW: On August 27-31, 2018, teams of three from 20 states participated in the first cohort group of Coming Together for Racial Understanding. The purpose of the training is to build capacity within Cooperative Extension Service (CES) to help communities engage in civil dialogues around racial issues. The week-long training was designed to prepare participants to build capacity within their home states’ CES, working across the borders of the Land-Grant Universities within a given state (where there are multiple LGUs within a state).

GREATEST STRENGTHS OF THE TRAINING AS IDENTIFIED BY PARTICIPANTS:
- Two days doing own work on racial equity principles before beginning on training materials for others
- Connections made among the cohort group across state lines and across race/ethnicity
- Safe place for intentional, difficult conversations
- Two approaches to dialogue which allows flexibility

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW THIS EFFORT:
- Hosting a second training, positioned in the West – spring, 2019
- Planning a convening of original cohort plus those trained in this pilot – fall, 2019
OTHER STATES EXPRESSING INTEREST:
- California
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Louisiana
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Nebraska
- South Dakota
- Vermont

NEXT STEPS FOR PILOTS:
- Build capacity within CES in home states
- Build capacity within at least one community.
- Measure impact

PARTICIPATING STATES

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

- Cooperative Extension
- Michigan State University
- Center for Regional Food Systems
- Everyday Democracy
- Ideas & Tools for Community Change
- Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation