

## **POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS— UNITING OUR LOCAL UNIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO BUILD POWER**

### ***Target Audience***

This course is intended for **teams** of local union leaders and activists interested in practicing community organizing skills such as relationship building, leadership development, issue identification, and campaign design. These skills are needed for creating meaningful and effective partnerships with community organizations. Participants will link these organizing skills with coalition building to win the issues, resources, and changes our communities deserve. This course works best if teams of two to four leaders from locals take it together.

### **Why Take It?**

We are in a different season in our country, when the rhetoric of divisive hate has won our attention, and the policies of unchecked capitalism have won political power. We need a different story, one that builds communities of educators, health care workers, parents, people of faith, students, and neighbors working together. Together, AFT members and our community partners can build the power needed to make better lives for all people.

This course will explore the pivotal moment we are in for labor and community collaboration. We will learn and practice organizing skills for internal and external engagement. We will examine several models for bringing families, educators, health care workers, and our partners together to create safer, healthier, better communities for all.

### **Key Objectives**

- Analyze why partnerships between AFT locals and community organizations are vital for the thriving of public education, higher education, health care, and the labor movement
- Understand the extent and the impact of current attacks on public education, health care, other public institutions, and our democracy. In education, these can look like privatization efforts such as funding cuts, school vouchers, and efforts at curricula censorship.
- Learn and practice holding one-on-one conversations with members and parents.
- Create and start to implement a campaign plan that utilizes work-site structure and community coalition that can build to local or statewide efforts.

### **Approach**

In advance of the course (in early June), participants will be asked to complete a survey about their experience building relationships within their locals and in their communities. Aspects of the course will be influenced by and adapted based on this information.

*Note: In advance of the course participants will be asked to complete and return a survey. There may also be some short, advance readings to complete.*