

ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

213
Focus Group
Participants



2-Month
Engagement
Window

14
In-Person
Focus Group
Sessions



993
Questionnaire
Responses



1,849
Visitors to the
Project Website

101
Visits to the Spanish
version of the website

4
drop-in visits at the
EFAA food bank

252
conversations with local &
small businesses in Boulder

29
individuals reached
through a tabling
event in Erie

To learn more about what we heard,
including the unique themes from
each community go to
<https://blldr.fyi/minimum-wage>



WHAT WE HEARD

EXPLORING REGIONAL
MINIMUM WAGE



Participants in focus group sessions and questionnaires expressed thoughtful input on the possible impacts of a regional minimum wage. Seven main themes emerged.



Regional Economic Impacts

- Belief that higher wages may lead to increased spending in the region, stimulating economic growth and supporting businesses.
- Concerns that higher wages may drive up inflation and lead to an increase in the cost of goods and services for the whole community, including minimum wage earners.

Attracting Businesses and Workers

- Belief that higher wages may attract employees and result in higher employee satisfaction and reduced turnover.
- Concerns that higher wages may force businesses, especially small businesses, to close or move to other communities as well as terminate or reduce hours and benefits for employees.

Role of Government

- Belief that increasing the minimum wage is not the role of local government.
- Belief that local governments should focus on other policies that address affordability and the cost of living, especially housing.

Read the full report



WHAT WE HEARD

EXPLORING REGIONAL
MINIMUM WAGE



Minimum Wage Earners

- Increased ability to meet basic needs
- Improved quality of life

Community

- Economic growth
- Concern about inflation and rising costs of goods & services

Small Businesses

- Increased labor costs may push local and small business owners to sell, close, or move
- Forced to increase prices
- Reduction in employee hours, benefits and opportunities
- Wage inequity and compression
- Any positive aspects would be short lived

Purpose

- Belief that minimum wage should enable people to afford their basic needs, improving human dignity and a sense of community.
- Belief that the minimum wage is not meant to be a living wage but instead a training wage for inexperienced workers as they gain greater knowledge, education, and skills.

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