

# PLANNING YOUR *NEWTOWN* COMMUNITY SCREENING



*Newtown* chronicles a community grappling with the aftermath of horrific violence. Your screening-and-discussion event has the power to spark much-needed conversation about gun violence prevention as a public health issue, and the power of trauma-informed care for individual and community healing. Use the suggestions below to help plan your event and get the conversation started.

## Build A Diverse Audience

As a first step, we encourage you to reach out to and invite stakeholders from across your community to attend your event. Not only will this help you to boost attendance; it will lead to a more robust, interesting and inclusive post-film conversation. Consider reaching out to:

- Parent groups, such as your local PTA.
- High school and university students.
- K-12 educators, administrators and school staff.
- Law enforcement, first-responders and emergency medical professionals.
- Faith and interfaith leaders.

## Frame The Conversation

However you structure your post-film conversation—Q&A, panel discussion, or small group conversation—we hope you will consider how your discussion can be inclusive and respectful of all voices. As a starting point, here are community-focused themes to consider including in your conversations:

- Emergency planning and preparedness.
- Individual and collective grief and healing.
- Community resilience.
- Trauma-informed care for individuals and communities.
- Gun violence prevention as a public health priority.

## ENCOURAGE NEW MESSENGERS

The national conversation about gun violence is often laced with partisan politics. As a film that focuses on community resilience and trauma, *Newtown* offers the opportunity to broaden the dialogue.

**At your event, consider inviting panelists that represent different corners of your community, for example, a parent, a teacher, a first-responder and a mental health professional.**

Or select a moderator who is skilled at facilitating complex and difficult discussions, for example a mediator or a faith leader. By supporting speakers who represent a cross-section of your community, you can make your screening more welcoming to a diverse audience.

Contact [Screenings@NewtownFilm.com](mailto:Screenings@NewtownFilm.com) with any questions.