



WHERE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES GROW



## COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: *Working Definitions*

**Community Organizing** occurs when community members act together to focus on a particular issue, challenge or opportunity. This relies on an organizer (often from outside the community) to mobilize action and support. Organizing is oriented toward social change and building power.

**Community Building** happens when community members come together to focus on relationship building, set a vision for their community, and engage in particular activities (often recurring, such as cultural festivals, educational events, neighborhood clean-ups, or providing services).

**Community Development** takes place when community members and organizations work together to create a vision, develop a plan, and take action to change the physical and socio-economic conditions in their community. This approach focuses on the development of capacity of community leaders and the linkage between community concerns and broader political, economic, and social influences.

**Comprehensive Community Development** strives to create long-term change in neighborhoods by connecting people and place, linking organizing, building community ties, and leadership development with understanding and influencing the range of interconnected issues in a neighborhood. This connects all areas important for a healthy community with the context in which the community exists—from the city in which it is located to its cultural, historical, and physical character.

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