



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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