

Community Organizing

"Community organizing is the art and science of creating vehicles or organizations for ordinary people to use for participating in the social, political, environmental, and economic decisions that impact on their lives."
(Gamaliel Foundation - www.gamaliel.org)

Top Tips

- Conduct frequent community meetings and other opportunities for residents to work together.
- Determine problems and other areas of concern that are important to community residents.
- Encourage residents to participate in addressing their community's issues and to have an active voice. Remember- strength exists in numbers and resident involvement leads to community empowerment!
- Conduct community outreach or informal surveys door to door to ensure that all residents have an opportunity to give input.
- Identify leaders in the community who have residents' support and can organize others.
- Clearly define specific community issues to focus on and what needs to be done.
- Create an action plan that is developed and supported by the community, not just a few community leaders.
- Include short-term, achievable goals to provide success early on. Long range goals will require more time and commitment.
- Identify allies and enemies of the plan's strategies and goals.
- Communicate the plan's strategies and progress to the community frequently.
- Provide ongoing training for residents to build their community organizing and leadership skills.
- Generate additional resources to support community organizing activities and costs.
- Educate the community and local decision makers about the community's specific issues and advocate for successful strategies and outcomes.
- Recognize community members for their ongoing participation and celebrate success!

Resource: www.civicpartnerships.org