



FOUNDATIONS OF PRACTICE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LEVEL **1** Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics

What is Community Development

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Learning Objectives

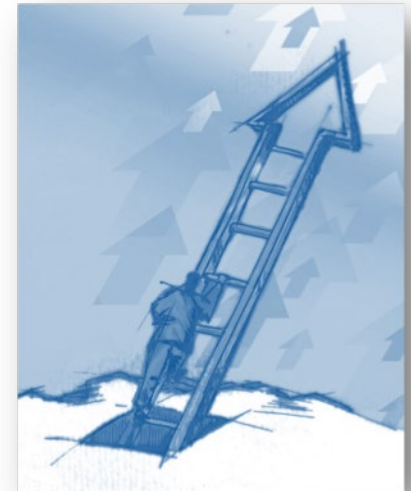
- Define community and explore the underlying assumptions that shape how people relate to community.
- Explore community types.
- Define community development and its role as a process for addressing change in community.
- Link concepts of community and community development to the we do in communities every day.





Learning Objectives (cont.)

- Develop an understanding of the various roles we can play in communities as facilitators of change.
- Identify the principles that guide the practice of community development process and apply them to working in communities.
- Review the Community Capitals Model
- Identify the community development process.





Understanding Community

Think about a time when you were an active member of a community.

- How did you know you were part of that community?
- What were the characteristics that made that experience a community experience for you?
- How do you relate to community in your daily life?





Understanding Community

What is Community?

- Interactions among people for mutual support





Understanding Community

Community types include:

- Communities of Interest
- Communities of Place
- Communities of Practice





Understanding Community

The context for this training is the community as a whole, as a “unit of analysis” rather than an individual or organization.





Understanding Community

Community includes three elements:

- Territory or place
- Social organizations or institutions that provide regular interaction among residents
- Social interaction on matters concerning a common interest



Source: Kenneth Wilkinson, 1991



Our Places

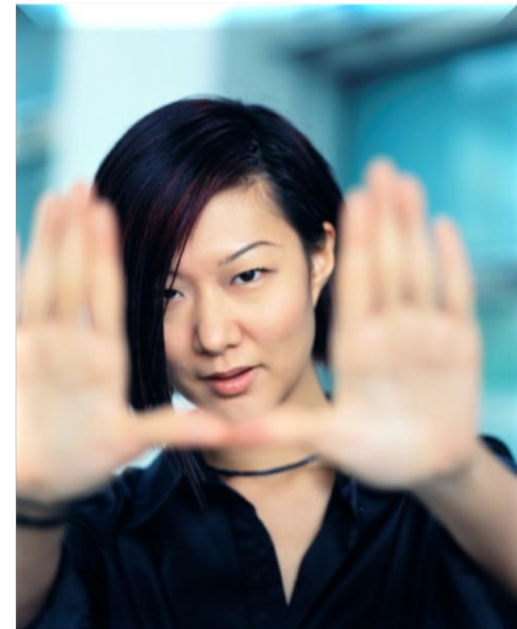
What kind of community do you identify with the most?

- A. Small, rural community (less than 25K population)**
- B. Small city (25K – 200K)**
- C. Suburban city**
- D. Urban neighborhood**
- E. Large city (greater than 220K)**



Understanding Community

The way we know community - **our experience with it** and **our understanding of the basic nature of community** - provides a framework for assessing communities and the processes at work in community.





Community Change

Based on your experiences of working in communities . . .

- What are some of the changing aspects of community where you live or work?
- What do you think are the primary causes of these changes?
- How is your community addressing these changes?





Community Development

What is community development?

A planned and organized **process** through which **people** and **communities** learn how they can help themselves.



Community Development is an organized process through which people work together to achieve community goals.



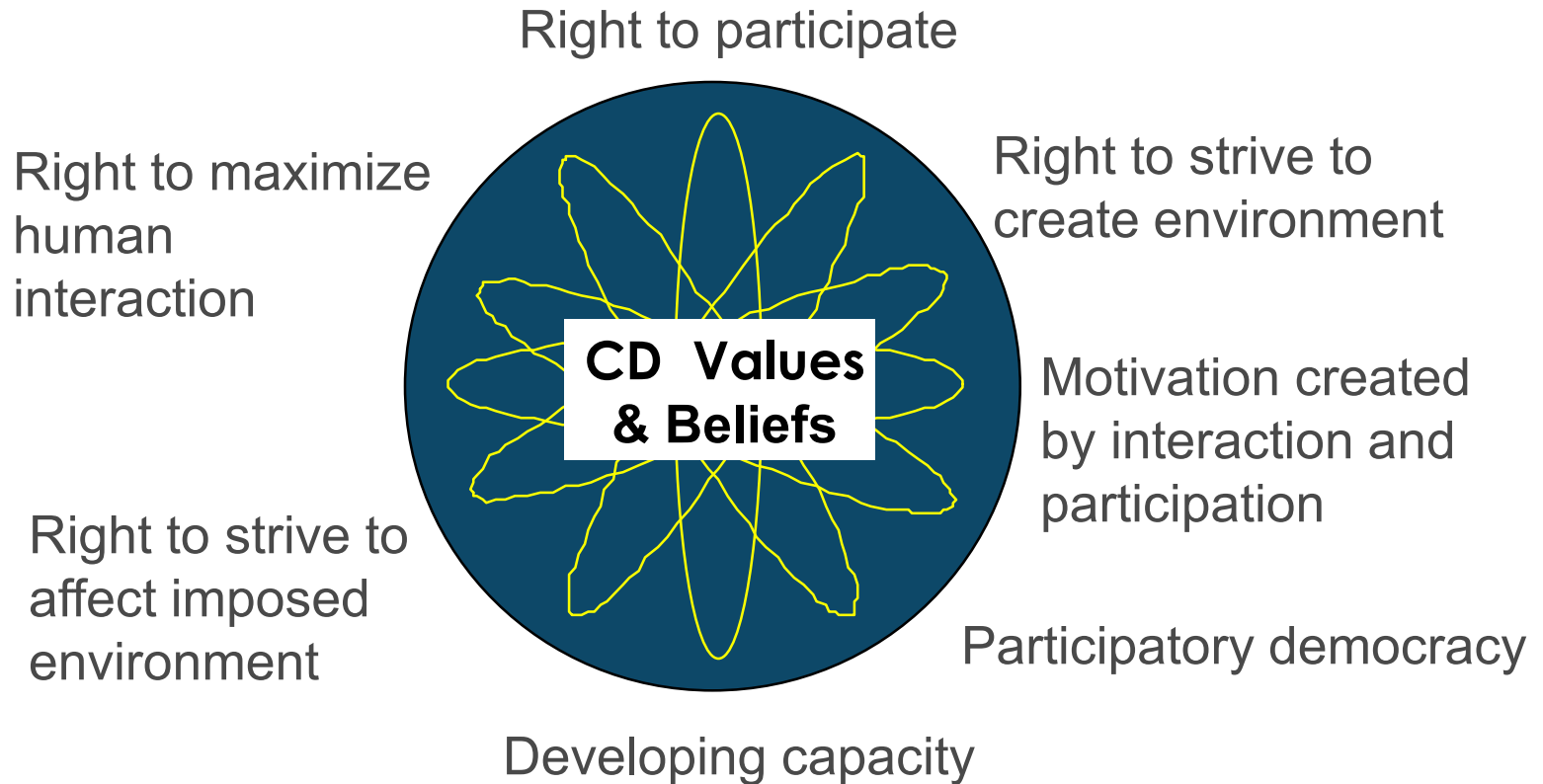
Community Development

What are the underlying values and assumptions we make when we talk about community and community development?





Community Development

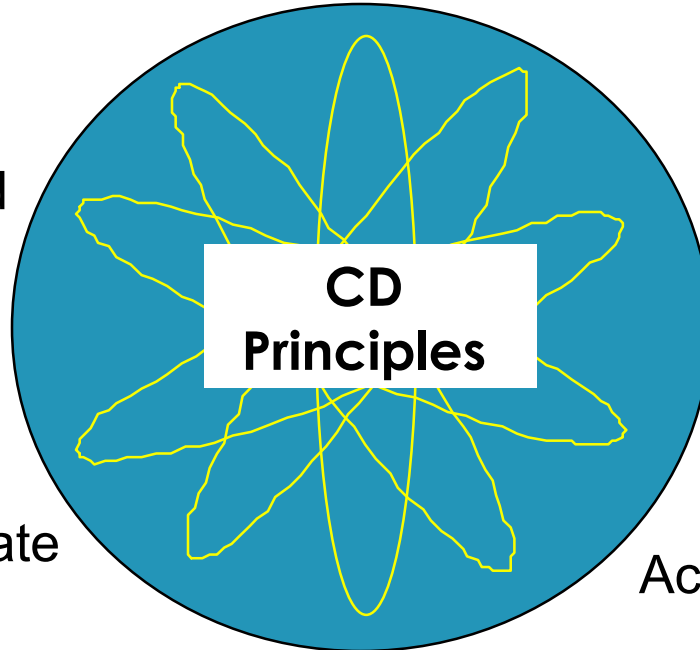




Community Development

Free and open participation

Right to be heard



Broad representation and increased breadth of perspective

Right to participate

Accurate information

Understanding is basis for change



Principles of Good Practice

- Promote active and representative participation toward enabling all community members to meaningfully influence the decisions that affect their lives.
- Engage community members in learning about and understanding community issues, and the economic, social, environmental, political, psychological, and other impacts associated with alternative courses of action.





Principles of Good Practice

- **Incorporate the diverse interests and cultures** of the community in the community development process; and disengage from support of any effort that is likely to adversely affect the disadvantaged members of a community.
- **Work actively to enhance the leadership capacity** of community members, leaders, and groups within the community.
- **Be open to using the full range of action strategies** to work toward the long term sustainability and well-being of the community.



Community Interaction

Community

Society

Continuum of Community Interaction



Strong
Sense of
Community



Strong
Sense of the
Primacy of the
Individual



Community Interaction

How do we know Community?

- The community is something external to us and to be acted on, predicted and managed.
- We are the community and create it through our ongoing processes of interaction.
- Do you consider yourself an insider or outsider in the communities in which you work?

Source: Domahidy, M. (2003). Using theory to frame community and practice. Journal of the Community Development Society, 34(1), 75-84.



POLL QUESTION!

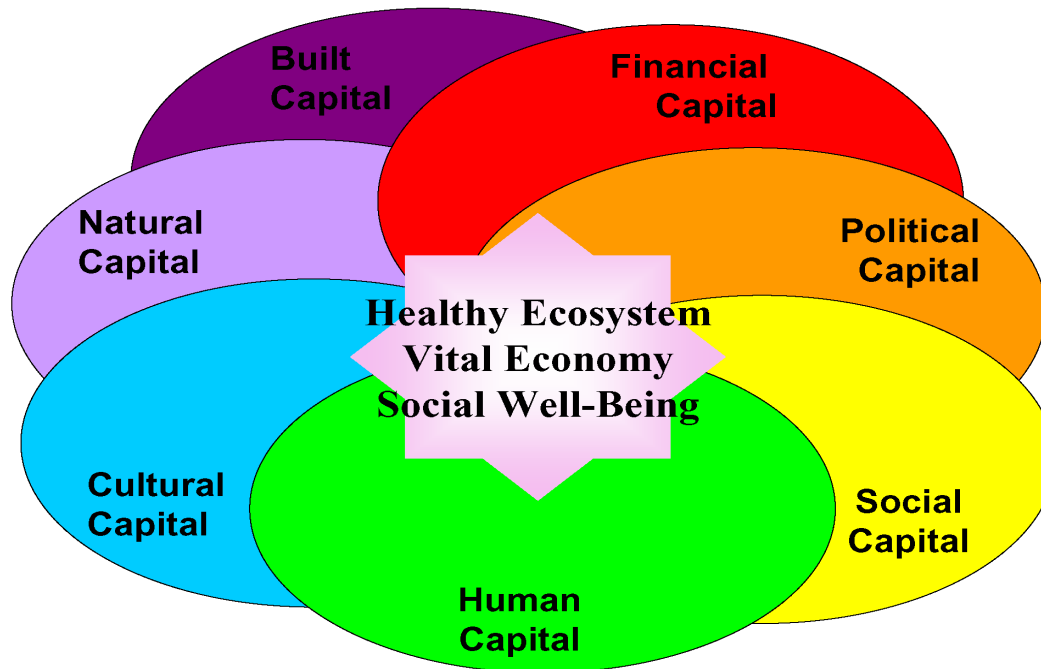
Think of a project you have worked on in a community. How do you think the community perceived you in that context?

- A. As an insider, someone who had a stake in what we were doing.**
- B. As a partial insider, someone who lived in the community but was representing an organization.**
- C. As an outsider, someone who doesn't live in the community and only participates in the community because of my position or job.**
- D. As a partial outsider, someone who doesn't live in the community but because of the where I work I am widely viewed as part of the community.**
- E. As a partial outsider, someone who lived in the community but was representing an organization.**



Community Interaction

Community Capitals Model



Source: Cornelia Butler Flora and Jan Flora.
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development,
Iowa State University, 2004.



FOUNDATIONS OF PRACTICE

IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LEVEL

1

Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics

Community Interaction





Reflection Questions

- What communities am I a part of in my everyday life?
- How do I relate to community? Am I an insider or an outsider?
- How do I define community development in my work?
- What are the principles that guide my interactions with people in my community work?



Finding the Sweet Spot



Based upon Rittel and Webber (1973)

Defining the problem



Ground Rules

For our time together we agree to the following: