



What is Community Organizing?

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- Community organizing, (is a) method of engaging and empowering people with the purpose of increasing the influence of groups historically underrepresented in (the) policies and decision making that affect their lives. Community organizing is both a tactic to address specific problems and issues and a longer-term engagement and empowerment strategy. Longer-term objectives of community organizing are to develop internal capabilities and to increase the decision-making power and influence of underrepresented groups. – **Encyclopedia Britannica**
- Community organizing is a field of practice. There are many theories as to what is the most effective way to do the work.



What is Community Organizing?

Successful Community Organizing *can* lead to:

- Advocates representing underrepresented/marginalized populations who are comfortable speaking to people in positions of power communicating their needs and ideas
- Persistent community coalitions built to address/monitor a local problem they identified and would like to correct
- Policy changes more reflective of a broader community voice
- Legal action to correct actions or seek damages for a negatively affected population



What is Community Organizing?

If your community group or organization's mission **does not** focus on:

- Power shifting/power sharing in civic spaces
- Elevating community voice by allowing them to set your agenda
- Facilitating opportunities for marginalized/underrepresented citizens to seek accountability from institutions

Your proposal is probably not a good fit for this opportunity.

If you are engaging with residents more along the lines of changing attitudes and beliefs or solving more short-term immediate problems like an isolated park clean up **the Foundation considers that “Resident Engagement.”**

