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IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MODEL

Created by:

Building the Field of Community Engagement partners

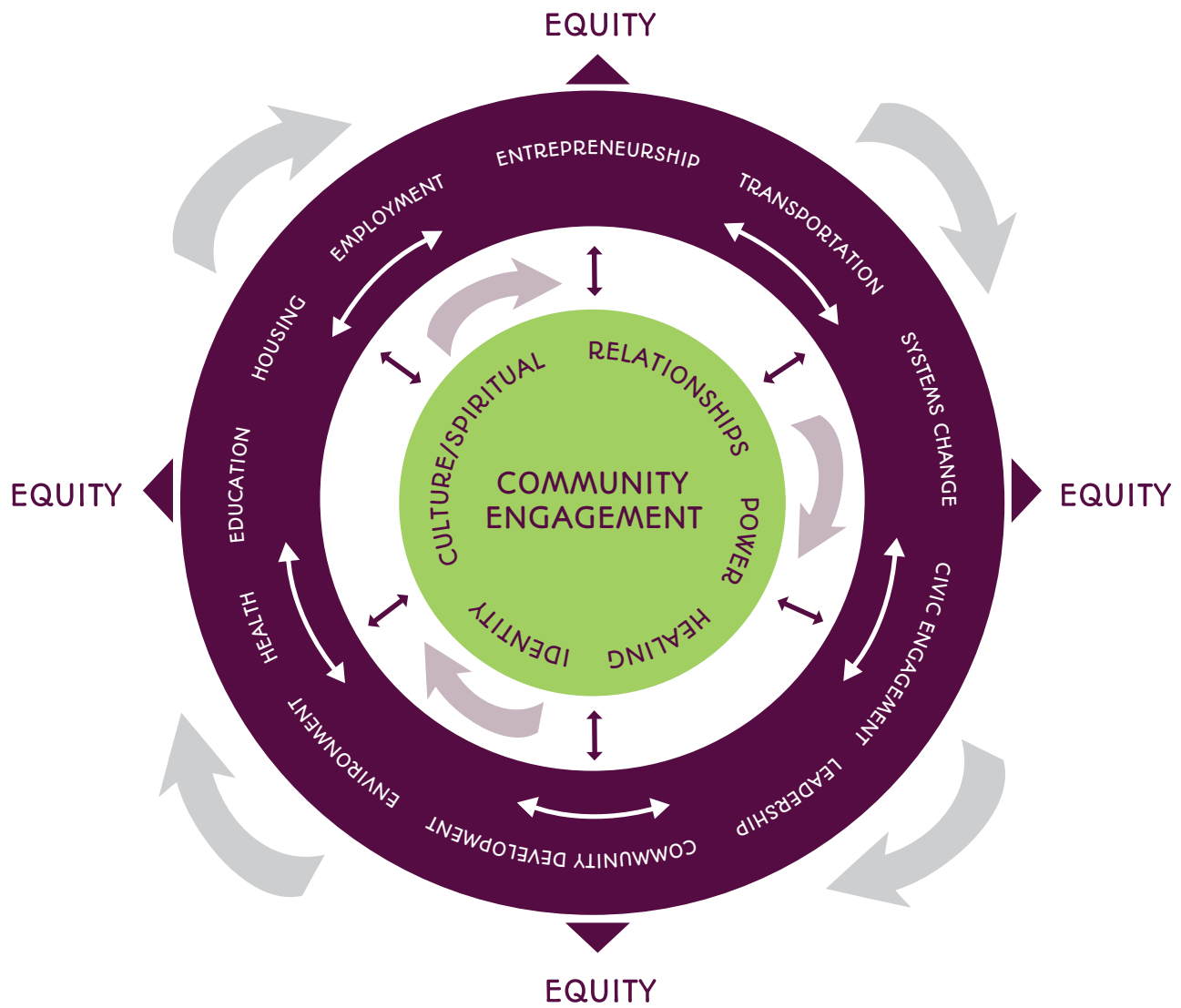
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We encourage you to share your feedback with us and tell us how you are using the tools and documents on our comment page at www.buildthefield.org.

The partners in the Building the Field of Community Engagement initiative intend these documents and tools to introduce practitioners, funders, evaluators and community members to community engagement, to give the field clarity in its language and principles. However, community engagement is not a field that can rely on written materials alone; it takes a community of experienced practitioners to support people new to the field in practicing community engagement effectively, meeting its challenges, and tapping the strengths within each unique context. We encourage you to seek out experienced practitioners to support you in implementing these tools, principles and concepts.

The partners in Building the Field of Community Engagement are available for consultation. Please contact us at www.buildthefield.org or email Janice Barbee at janicegwb@yahoo.com.

IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MODEL



The Impacts of Community Engagement model describes the outcomes that result from authentic community engagement.

The outer circle outcomes are the tangible, visible goals of the work that community members do together.

The inner circle outcomes are achieved in the process of doing the work and are foundational elements of a healthy community in their own right. These assets are the building blocks for positive change in all of the areas of the outer circle and need to be attended to or strengthened in a long-term process, during and beyond the process of achieving an outcome in the outer circle. The importance of these elements is often overlooked and communities' work in these areas is often under-resourced.

The wheel as a whole is fluid and dynamic, demonstrating the perpetual interconnectedness of the elements. The model demonstrates the power of community engagement to impact multiple levels and systems, and to create sustained change that lasts beyond a project or campaign.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEFINITIONS

The following are the working definitions the partners in Building the Field of Community Engagement use to describe the elements of the model. Coming to a collective understanding about what these terms mean will help to build the field of community engagement.

INNER CIRCLE:

Outcomes that are an essential process

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A process that includes multiple techniques to promote the participation of community members in community life, especially those who are excluded and isolated, to engage them in collective action to promote a healthy community.

RELATIONSHIPS

The practice of community engagement requires the building of authentic, long-term relationships involving trust, respect, and reciprocity.

IDENTITY

Community engagement supports the maintenance, development, and/or reclaiming of a healthy sense of self for individuals and includes a sense of belonging to groups that give a person connection, continuity, and meaning.

CULTURE/SPIRITUALITY

Community engagement nurtures the practices, beliefs, traditions, and ways of knowing that create cohesion and give people a vision across generations.

HEALING

Community engagement provides the space to draw meaning from a personal or collective story, and recognize and build on strengths and resilience. It acknowledges and promotes wholeness.

POWER

Community engagement activates and exercises the ability to act for personal and community benefit.

OUTER CIRCLE:

Tangible, visible outcomes of the work

LEADERSHIP

Using strengths to act and inspire, influence, and/or support others in building and supporting healthy communities.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Full participation in the political process that promotes a community's self-determination.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Activities that encourage using local resources in a way that enhances economic opportunities while improving social conditions in a sustainable way. The common distinction between community development and community engagement is that community development focuses more on place (bricks and mortar) whereas community engagement focuses more on people.

SYSTEMS CHANGE

Changes that impact all elements of an organization, institution, or system, including culture, structures, policies, rules, programs, staffing and the allocation of resources.

EQUITY

Targeted strategies to ensure everyone can achieve their full potential and eliminate differences in quality of life indicators.

