

## What is Community Capacity Development?

Community Capacity Development is investing in the ability of the people who have the most at stake to come together under their own power and develop the skills and resources to deal with problems in their families and their communities.

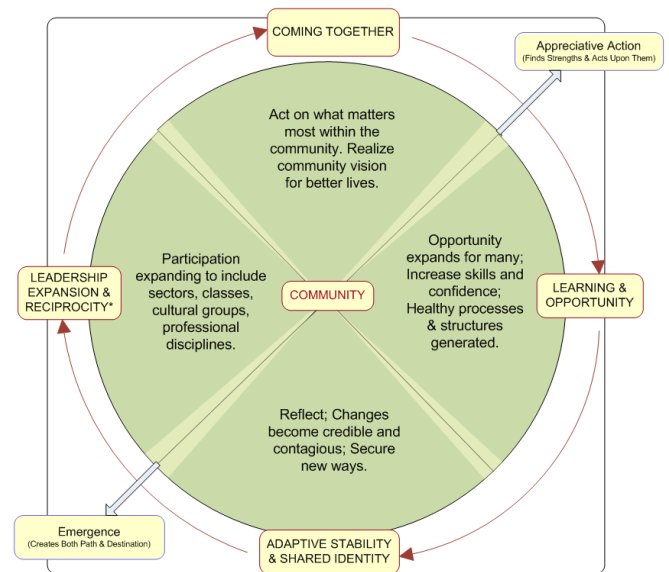
In contrast, government programs deal with families and individuals in isolation from the places they live and the people they live among. Government programs provide essential resources and expertise, and they offer a basic security against extreme stressors. Community Capacity Development builds on this base at the people-to-people level in the same way that economic development catalyzes a more healthy business infrastructure.

Community Capacity Development saves a lot of money now, and even more in the future. Research evidence links Community Capacity Development with reductions in the rates of costly social, health, justice, and workforce development problems simultaneously.

### Four Essentials

1. **CENTRALIZED BACKBONE ORGANIZATION WITH DEDICATED STAFF** at the local and state/regional level with specialized skills, knowledge & abilities. Develops, coordinates, and measures a cross-sector agenda designed to produce collective impact (rather than isolated interventions of individual providers).
2. **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT MODEL IMPLEMENTATION** – a highly structured process that leads to effective decision making, greater social capital, improved norms & programs, and better results.
3. **SEED MONEY** for education, skill development, & pilot initiatives.
4. **PARTICIPATORY OUTCOME-FOCUSED LEARNING AND EVALUATION** that brings researchers, research evidence, and state-of-the art tools directly into the hands of residents and professionals working with families, children and other community leaders.

**FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT MODEL**



This model is powerful because success in one phase propels success in the next. It is a virtuous cycle that has the power to improve population health.

**FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL - COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY NETWORKS  
EXPERIENCED LEADERS DELIVER STUNNING SUCCESS FROM A SMALL INVESTMENT**

**Community Capacity Development is a public health approach to solving many interrelated problems simultaneously by improving peoples' sense of place and connection, the physical and social context of their lives, and their collective efficacy.** Collective efficacy is belief among a group of people that their actions can be effective, helpful, and lead to a better life. As people work together, their collective vision for community thriving emerges and drives the capacity development process. The result: engaged citizens promoting environments that protect people and promote resilience throughout the lifespan.

**Community Capacity Development puts into place a four-phased process that provides increasing opportunity for people to overcome stress, trauma and other life challenges by drawing from healthy social and cultural networks and practices.** The process challenges people to realize core values in their everyday actions, and supports policy and system change so they can do so. In some communities, healthy processes are not the norm, or may be unstable, requiring costly programs and professional supports to maintain. The Family Policy Council's model for community capacity development puts into place self sustaining processes that provide increasing opportunity for people to overcome stress, trauma and other life challenges by drawing from healthy social and cultural networks and practices in the community. The model challenges people to realize core values in their everyday actions, and supports policy and system change so they can do so.

**The effectiveness of this approach is based on a comprehensive research-based understanding of what it takes to produce healthy and productive adults regardless of the circumstances into which they are born.** Supportive human relationships are a vital foundation for health throughout the lifespan. We all know that each community is different –communities vary greatly in the number and severity of problems they face and the resources available to solve them. The health and functionality of the community has a profound effect on people's lives. So it should not surprise us that there is a statistically significant correlation between high community capacity and people reporting through random sample survey that they receive higher levels of social-emotional support and lower prevalence of diseases.

**Government, business, academic, medical, philanthropy, faith, other sectors, working together, have a vital role in funding and supporting the development of community capacity.** Each of these sectors have strong financial interests in success – significant reductions in medical, justice, insurance, workforce preparation, and general societal costs like public education. Government programs alone are not sufficient to drive change. Change must be driven by people in their communities.

**By bringing like minded people together across program silos, and combining ideas and approaches, we work through challenges facing our communities and generate life-saving changes.**

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