Community Development Approaches

RTM 300

Needs Assessment Approach

- Focus on problems and weakness in community
- Needs assessment survey
Asset Building Approach

- Focus on resources and strengths present in community
- Asset mapping

Community Development Principles

- Asset based
- Geographic focus for community
- Regional perspective
- Public participation
- Roles of community based organizations (CBO)
Themes of Community Development
Self-Help Theme
J.A. Christenson

- Self- Help Theme
  - Facilitator or educator role
  - Process focused
  - High ownership by community
  - Belief in capacity of situation
  - Sustainability potential

Technical Theme: community development
J.A. Christenson

- Adviser or consultant role
- Task focus
- Goals often set outside community
- Consultant expertise central
- Delivery central, regional, or local
Conflict Theme: community development

J. D. Christenson

- Advocate or organizer role
- Process or task focus
- Assumes lack of power
- Conflict strategy
- Saul Alinsky
- Sustainability problem