

Inclusive Neighborhoods

What is an inclusive neighborhood?

An inclusive neighborhood is a neighborhood that:

- Does everything that it can to respect all its residents, gives them full access to resources and promotes equal treatment and opportunity.
- Engages all its residents in decision-making processes that affect their lives.
- Values diversity.
- Works to eliminate all forms of discrimination.
- Responds quickly to racist and other discriminating incidents.

Why is building an inclusive neighborhood important?

There are many reasons why an inclusive neighborhood is important. Here are a few examples:

- Each person has the right to be part of decisions that affect their lives and the groups they belong to.
- Diversity enriches our lives, so it is worth our while to value our neighborhood diversity.
- Different view points give way to different, better solutions ~ synergy.
- Acts of exclusion and injustice based on group identity and other factors should not be allowed to occur and/or continue.

How can you build an inclusive neighborhood?

An inclusive neighborhood can be built at any time. Some things you can do are to:

- Gather information about the neighborhood.
- Bring together people representing different groups as equals in terms of power, respect and importance.
- Create opportunities for members of different groups to identify and share their similarities.
- Allow for the identification of each group's assets and use and exchange them as part of your effort.
- Engage influential leaders representing the major groups in the neighborhood from the beginning to provide guidance.
- Work with the district council or block clubs to identify potential entry points and/or strategies for building an inclusive neighborhood.
- Identify differences and conflicts and transform them into assets and relations in the neighborhood.
- Ensure institutional support for promoting inclusion, equity and justice.
- Acknowledge and celebrate successful action.
- Sustain relationships, strategies and changes at individual, group and institutional levels.

Inclusive Neighborhood Checklist

The neighborhood has:

- Acknowledged its need to become inclusive and has discussed how it might affect its efforts.
- Used strategies that target multiple levels-individuals, groups and institutions.
- Gathered information about the neighborhood.
- Engaged influential leaders representing the major groups in the neighborhood from the beginning to provide guidance.
- Worked with the district council or block clubs to identify potential entry points and/or strategies for building an inclusive community.
- Brought together people representing different groups to identify and share their similarities and differences.
- Identified each group's assets.
- Used and exchanged assets as part of the effort.
- Identified, respected, and transformed conflicts into improved capacity and relations in the neighborhood.
- Ensured institutional support for promoting inclusion, equity and justice.
- Acknowledged and celebrated successful collective action.
- Sustained relationships, strategies and changes at individual, group and institutional levels.