



CENTER FOR COMMUNITIES
AN INITIATIVE OF PORTLAND LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

HELPING BRIDGE GOOD INTENTIONS TO MORE EFFECTIVE OUTCOMES

Executive Summary

What is Center For Communities?

Portland Leadership Foundation's *Center For Communities* is a "capacity building" modality designed to recruit men and women in the professional community to partner with Executive Director's in the non-profit community to help grow the capacity of the non-profit organization. The *Center For Communities* serves as a system designed to help transform an organization's good intentions to produce more effective outcomes for both the organization and the community.

Each non-profit seeking to engage our capacity building initiative will take a pre-assessment. Depending on how our team assesses the targeted areas of improvement for an organization, we recruit specialized consultants to help the non-profit organizations develop in a minimum of two of the following areas:

- 1. Mission, Vision, and Values**
- 2. Program Capacity**
- 3. Fundraising Development**
- 4. Board Recruitment and Development**
- 5. Program Outcome Measurement**
- 6. Marketing**
- 7. Strategic Planning**
- 8. Creative Partnership Development.**

Upon acceptance into the program, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is developed between the *Center For Communities*, the team of consultants, and the selected non-profit to clearly outline the expectations of engagement. Upon completion of the objectives identified in the MOU, the non-profit organization may or may not be awarded a capacity building grant by Portland Leadership Foundation.

The Capacity Building Process

Step One: Relationship Building and Assessment

We believe relationships are the foundation on which any consulting work begins to take root. All capacity building projects start with these five steps:

- Submission of application to Center for Communities
- Client organization completes preliminary assessment
- Interviews with Board Member, Executive Director, and Staff Person
- Consultant team completes Consensus Report
- CFC staff completes Organizational Executive Summary

Step Two: Consulting and Collaboration

Upon completing the first assessment phase, a team of consultants are matched to tailor-make a capacity building strategy for the client organization.

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signed
- Executive Director Coaching
- Large Group Training
- Small Group Think Tank
- Individual Development Plan

Step Three: Growth

The Center For Communities' process is designed to measure the differential between the beginning and end of our capacity building work.

- Goals set in MOU and Individual Development Plan
- Regular reporting on predetermined desired outcomes
- Completion of final assessment
- Final Consensus Meeting
- Score Determined
- Growth