FPP Virtual Session – September 2019
There’s Gotta’ Be a Better Way . . .
A New Framework for
Effective Community Development Practice
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Who/What is FPP?

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There's Gotta' Be a Better Way…
A New Framework for Effective Community Development Practice
BACKGROUND
Why is this important?

After 50 years of Community Development Practice in the U.S., we’ve hardly moved the needle on the most critical issues of poverty and income inequality.

The abrogation of federal and state government’s role in community development funding support has become the new normal.

Community Development Practice has not addressed the hyper-competitive global economy.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT’S “WICKED PROBLEMS”

- Affordable housing
- Persistent and concentrated poverty
- Income inequality
- Health and well-being
- Public education and workforce development
Local Decision-making

Self-help

Maximum Citizen Participation – Blending of Expert and experiential knowledge

Holistic and integrated approach to community problem-solving
Poll Question #1
RESEARCH TASKS

FRAMEWORK
To create a new community development framework for addressing persistent poverty and income inequality.

ISSUES
The broader community development research agenda will address the pressing issues of widening income inequality and decreasing economic opportunity and mobility in the U.S.
Poll Question #2
RESEARCH TASKS

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT MODELS
Analysis to determine the efficacy of current institutional support networks and financial models.

BEST PRACTICE ASSESSMENT
Identification and analysis of “best practice” institutional support networks in the U.S.

BEST PRACTICE ASSESSMENT
Best practice assessment of the types, roles and impacts of intermediaries in community-based investing and their link to communities.

PARTNERSHIPS
Design of new “Community Development Partnerships” that can provide a more holistic and integrated approach to community problem-solving.

INVESTMENT VEHICLES
Opportunities for new investment vehicles and community partners to explore to improve and expand long-term community benefits.
DELIVERABLES

New Community Development Support Infrastructure Model

New Operative Framework for local Community Development Practice

Focus on the capacity and effectiveness of requisite institutional support infrastructure

Role and function of new “Community Development Partnerships”
Challenges and Opportunities

Community development strategies must be able to address multiple problems at the same time.

Fragmentation of the local community development delivery system.

Local leadership on community development: How can it be sold, created and maintained?
PRELIMINARY RESEARCH FINDINGS
Research Questions

Is the field of community development undergoing a challenge: How pervasive is this thinking and what are the main issues?

What are the sub-fields of community development and how are they responding?

Are there ideas, concept, strategies that hold promise and provide some direction?
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS
The research questions have identified several areas of major concern with the broader field of community development. Can these areas of “major concern,” taken together, serve as a foundation for crafting a more responsible and holistic framework and for community development delivery?
Poll Question #4
MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN: RESEARCH FOCUS

- Small Business Development
- Workforce Development and Job training
- Affordable Housing
Gaps in the availability of capital for businesses owned by women and people of color are still a problem.

Lack of targeted and formalized small business assistance: Prevalence of “generalized” business service offerings to businesses from vastly different industries.

A need to develop more flexible debt and equity products that can support startup and growth stage businesses.

Undefined institutional (public, private, nonprofit) roles in formulating strategies that connect businesses to capital.
“Skills gap” remains the most pressing workforce development issue

Lack of targeted and formalized workforce development program strategies

Insufficient human, technological and data-driven analytics capacity in program delivery

Federal and state workforce development agency programs not effectively linked to local complementary services, i.e. Child Day Care, Food Assistance, Mentorship Programs
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

01 Cities/counties are still overly dependent on diminishing federal and state funding

02 Local affordable housing delivery systems are not in place, but fragmented among providers, funders and builders

03 Uncertainty regarding the effectiveness and long-term maintenance of local affordable housing investment funds

04 The role of nonprofit developers in affordable housing development
Poll Question #5
NEXT STEPS

01 Identify best practice case study examples addressing major areas of concern (Status: Ongoing)

02 Identify program and service gaps in best practice examples (Status: Ongoing)

03 Determine methods and ways for improved coordination and integration (Status: Further Research Required)

04 Identify roles and responsibilities of institutional partners (Status: Further Research Required)

05 Develop performance metrics for New Community Development Delivery System (Status: Further Research Required)
Questions for the Guest Expert?
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