

Rural residents taking the lead to build their community's future



These 29 actions will increase your impact as a Community Builder and **help you and other rural residents take the lead in building your community's future.**

Remember:

- Everyone practices some of them.
- No one practices all of them.
- The more you practice, the better.
- You can build community every day, anywhere, in big and small ways.
- A team approach allows for a diversity of actions.
- Building your practice takes purpose, persistence and passion.

Listen to Learn

1. Know and honor the history of the community
2. Listen actively and openly
3. Listen to all community groups
4. Listen for opportunities to engage
5. Never stop listening

Engage to Mobilize

6. Identify and engage around shared values and interests
7. Seek opportunities to work and learn together
8. Build a team around the energizers and mobilizers
9. Identify and create multiple ways to gain broad community participation
10. Engage the hard-to-reach and resisting forces
11. Never stop doing outreach

Skill Up, Branch Out

12. Learn new skills to get the work done
13. Build local relationships, partnerships and networks
14. Teach needed skills to others
15. Build regional and national relationships, partnerships and networks

Plan Together

16. Gather data and information as a learning and working tool
17. Create an inclusive vision
18. Develop goals, strategies, measures and action plans
19. Collaborate and align the work throughout the community
20. Reach your long-term goals through short-term actions

Create Change

21. Ensure the change is the change the greater community wants to see
22. Honor the pace of the community
23. Take unified action to invest in community effort
24. Stay involved over the long term

Celebrate & Reflect

25. Share stories and pay attention to the larger unfolding story
26. Identify what works and what doesn't
27. Stay flexible and adapt along the way
28. Celebrate successes and acknowledge and learn from failures
29. Find ways to renew and re-energize