

Guiding Principles

We believe in Promotion of Human Dignity

Communities will promote human dignity and respect, protect basic human rights, and prevent exploitation of its' members.

We commit to:

- Strengthen families' right to raise their children without fear, intimidation, or humiliation based on identity or poverty.
- Formulate resident agendas that promote dignity and basic human rights, and prevent and address exploitation.
- Organize residents and others working together across racial, cultural, age, gender, language and class boundaries. Strengthen authentic, deep relationships that are safe and supportive of personal and community healing.

We believe in Equalization of Power

Residents will accumulate and express collective, inclusive and responsible power for the improvement of their families and communities.

We commit to:

- Create opportunities for residents and other leaders to develop, practice and refine leadership skills and capacities.
- Constantly broaden and deepen resident involvement.
- Acknowledge the importance of learning and opportunities to learn, and honoring the different learning styles reflected in community, to achieve community change.
- Strategically collect and use data and other information for planning and decision-making.
- Insist that resident organizations are democratically controlled.
- Build a sustainable, organized power base.
- Formulate a resident agenda that measurably improves the quality of life for families and children in multiple ways.

We believe in Transformed Organizations and Institutions

Residents will effect transformative and sustainable change in community organizations, public and private institutions, and their communities.

We commit to:

- Insist upon the responsible use of power to influence and support the community's agenda.
- Provide opportunities to build sustainable relationships between families and individuals to each other and the organizations that serve them.
- Support resident access to and influence on the decision-making processes of organizations and institutions that affect their families' economic and social well-being.
- Increase and/or redirect public and private resources to reflect resident priorities. Promote the primacy of resident power in matters affecting their communities.

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