

Building Alliance Communities

The Ultimate Goal

What does it mean for a community to have its act together?

From the perspective of Building Communities, it means five things—the community:

- has selected a set of community and economic development strategies that can succeed
- is informed and supportive of the chosen strategic direction
- has sufficient capacity to successfully implement the strategic plan
- has identified specific, measurable action steps for plan implementation
- has a populous with a common core motivation to succeed



There is a sixth key element of a truly successful community: it is comprised of leaders and citizens who put the advancement of the entire community—not just its individual projects—first.

Communities that do this are **Alliance Stage Communities**.



Communities that desire to become an Alliance Stage Community must truthfully answer “yes” to the following questions:

- Does the community have a collective desire to advance itself?
- Does the community have a broad-based economic development strategic plan in place? Is it being implemented?
- Does the community have effective, respected economic development professionals (and city and county managers) in place?
- Is the community prepared to engage its project leaders in a broader, more collective approach to community advocacy and advancement?
- Are the community project leaders willing to subordinate their individual project interests to the overall community interest?

If the answers to all questions are “yes”, then the stage is set for the formation and prospering of an Alliance community. If the answer is “yes” to all of the questions, but the answer to the last question is unknown, then an effort to explore the formation of an Alliance community may well be worthwhile.

Alliance Community

Advantages of being an Alliance Stage Community include:

- A strong sense of community is created amongst a broad cadre of community advocates
- The community becomes more aware of the needs and accomplishments of the various projects and initiatives
- Outside funding sources (foundations as well as state and federal funders) may be impressed with the teamwork and may provide additional funding
- All project funding sources can be channeled in a manner and timeframe that provide the greatest community benefit