



Expeditious Process Defined 4 Phases/7 Steps

Building Communities believes that it is not enough simply to have sound theories and objective tools at a community's disposal. It is also important to have a very expeditious practice.



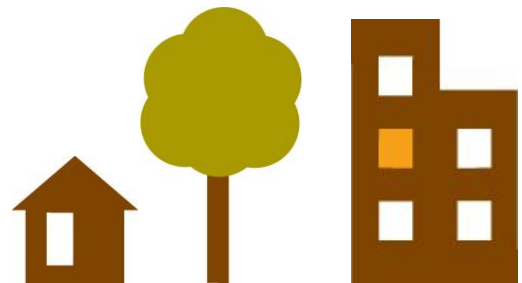
The benefits of focusing the intensity of the planning process into a very concentrated week are fourfold:

- Efficient use of time for professionals and volunteers
- Community members know their input is heard and valued
- Momentum is maintained
- Near-immediate shift to implementation phase

Planning efforts that drag on for too long simply exhaust participants and undermine the process.

A Building Communities plan can be completed in three months—start to finish. All it takes is for a community to:

- Commit to the planning process
- Identify the lead organization and the Plan Director
- Identify the planning region
- Establish the Steering Committee
- Schedule Plan Week
- Promote Plan Week
- Go to work and complete the process



That's it. Ready?

Phases? Steps?	Planning Time Table			
	Planning Phase	Planning Step	Time Frame	
<p>The <i>Building Communities</i> book describes a series of seven steps to the planning process.</p> <p>The table at right shows how the phases relate to the steps.</p> <p>The total planning process can take as little as 12 weeks.</p>	Phase 1	Gear Up	1—Organization 2—Outreach	2 Weeks 4-6 Weeks
		Phase 2	Plan Week	3—Strategy Selector Tool/ Community Meeting
	4—Leadership Check-in			
	5—Community Organizer Tool			
	Phase 3	Assign Action Steps	6—Drafting Plan	4 Weeks
			7—Final Plan	1 Week
	Phase 4	Implement	I—Implementation	3-5 Years
Total Process			12-14 Weeks	

