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IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MODEL

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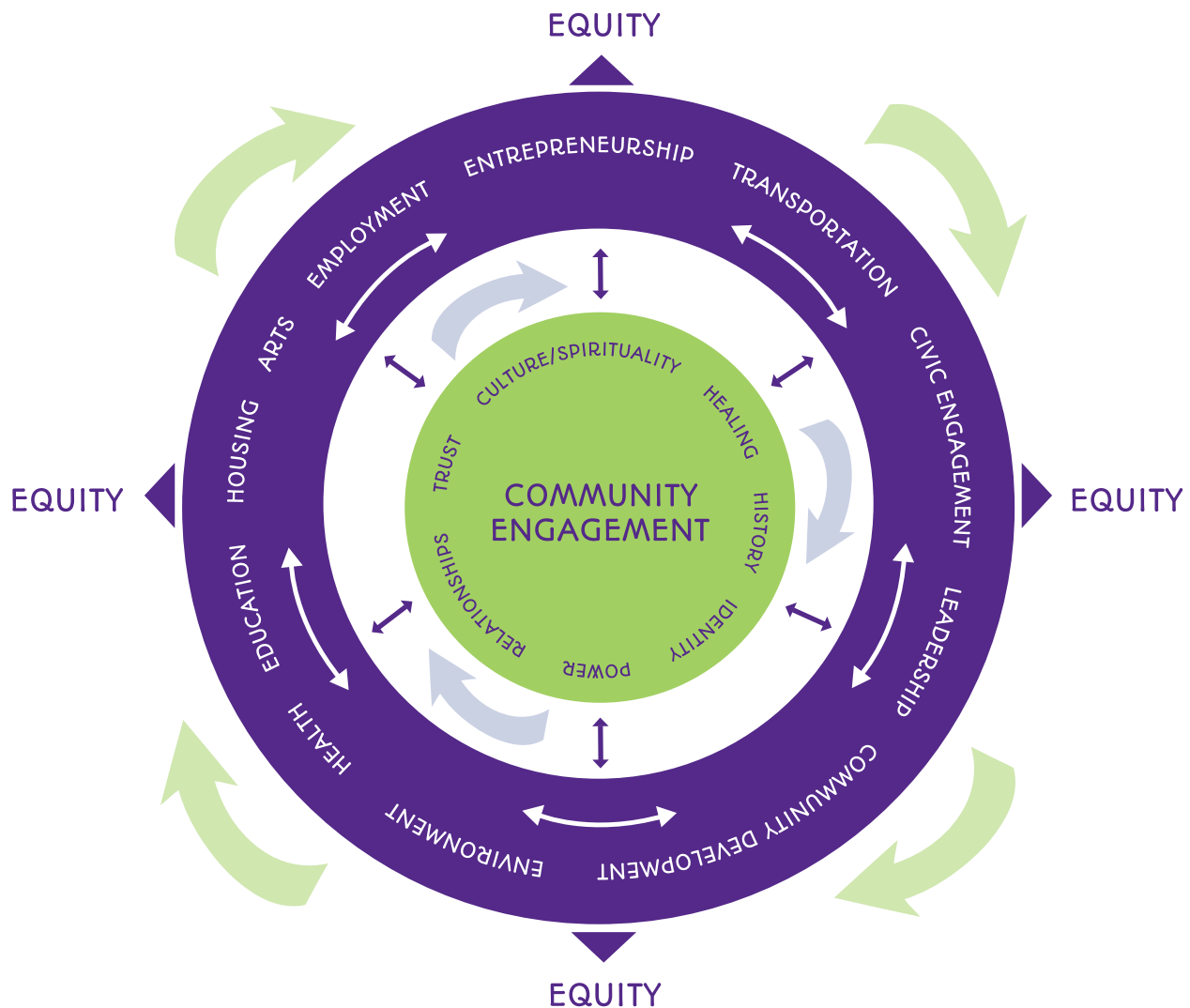
We encourage you to share your feedback with us and tell us how you are using the tool or resource. Nexus Community Engagement Institute and our partners intend these documents and tools to introduce practitioners, funders, evaluators, and community members to community engagement and to give the field clarity in its language and principles. However, community engagement is not a field that can rely on written materials alone; it takes a community of practitioners to support one another in practicing community engagement effectively, meeting its challenges, and tapping the strengths within each unique context. We encourage you to seek out experienced practitioners to support you in implementing these tools, principles, and concepts.

Nexus Community Engagement Institute is available for consultation. Please contact us at www.nexuscp.org/ncei or email program director Avi Viswanathan at aviswanathan@nexuscp.org.

Nexus Community Engagement Institute is continuing the work of the Building the Field of Community Engagement (BTF) collaborative. The BTF collaborative was a partnership between Casa de Esperanza, the Cultural Wellness Center, Hope Community, Lyndale Neighborhood Association, the Native American Community Development Institute, and Nexus Community Partners.

IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MODEL

As of May 29, 2018



The Impacts of Community Engagement model describes the outcomes that result from authentic community engagement.

The outer circle components are the tangible, visible goals of the work that community members do together.

The inner circle components are achieved in the process of doing the work and are foundational elements of a healthy community in their own right. These assets are the building blocks for positive change in all of the areas of the outer circle and need to be attended to and will be strengthened in a long-term process, during and beyond the process of achieving an outcome in the outer circle. The importance of these elements is often overlooked and communities' work in these areas is often under-resourced, but is vital in achieving equity.

The wheel as a whole is fluid and dynamic, demonstrating the perpetual interconnectedness of the elements. The model demonstrates the power of community engagement to impact multiple levels and systems, and to create sustained change that lasts beyond a project or campaign. This sustained systems change will impact all elements of an organization, institution, or system, including culture, structures, policies, rules, programs, staffing, and the allocation of resources.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEFINITIONS

As of May 29, 2018

Community members and the Building the Field of Community Engagement partners (see cover) developed the following working definitions to describe the elements of the model. Coming to a collective understanding about what these terms mean and how to center them when engaging community will help build the field of community engagement and advance equity.

EQUITY: Fair access to resources and opportunities, full participation in the life and well-being of the community, and self-determination in meeting fundamental needs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: A process that includes multiple techniques to promote the participation of residents in community life, especially those who are excluded and isolated, by engaging them in collective action to create a healthy community.

INNER CIRCLE DEFINITIONS: *Outcomes that are strengthened as a result of community engagement and are an essential part of the process.*

CULTURE/SPIRITUALITY

Community engagement nurtures the practices, beliefs, traditions, and ways of knowing that create cohesion and give people a vision across generations.

HEALING

Community engagement provides the space to draw meaning from a personal or collective story, and to recognize and build on strengths and resilience. It acknowledges and promotes wholeness.

HISTORY

Community engagement is a dialogue between the past, the present, and the future; acknowledging and learning from key events, sorrows, dreams, movements, influencers, victories and aspirations that have shaped how a community expresses its own culture and interacts with people and systems. Community engagement provides a path to healing and building from that history.

IDENTITY

Community engagement supports the maintenance, development, and/or reclamation of a healthy sense of self for individuals and includes a sense of belonging to groups that gives a person connection, continuity, and meaning.

POWER

Community engagement activates and exercises the ability to act for personal and community benefit.

RELATIONSHIPS

The practice of community engagement requires the building of authentic, long-term relationships involving truth, respect, and reciprocity.

TRUST

The practice of community engagement calls for transparency, honesty, and mutual learning and understanding between individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions. It requires being vulnerable and open to deepen relationships and strengthen mutual accountability.