

Six Pillars of Community Development and Quality of Life Planning

1. Affordable and Attainable Housing: Affordable housing is typically for low-moderate-income households, often through government subsidies, to ensure housing costs are no more than 30% of income. Attainable housing, or “workforce housing” serves middle-income earners who may not qualify for assistance but are still priced out of market-rate homes.

2. Climate Resilience: Climate resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, and systems to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather.

3. Community Stability: Community stability refers to the ability of a community to resist disturbances and return to its original state. In a social sense, it refers to the strength of a community’s social fabric, characterized by trust, cooperation, and a collective sense of security.

4. Leveraging Assets and Community Partners: Leveraging assets and community partners means using existing resources and collaborations to achieve common goals, such as growing an organization, increasing impact, or developing a community. This involves identifying what a community already has, like people, places, and institutions, and building partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and residents to create shared objectives and better utilize resources.

5. Reconnecting to Growth and Resources: Reconnecting growth and resources can refer to several initiatives, such as the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program which aims to provide communities with funding for public services, public facility improvements, and equitable development projects.

6. Strengthening Families: Strengthening families means supporting families to be resilient and capable by building on their strengths, rather than focusing on problems. It involves programs and communities engaging with families to develop five key protective factors: parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, and social and emotional competence of children.

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