Want to strengthen your outreach skills?

How about becoming a more effective leader – ready, trained, and poised to help communities through these difficult times? Whether your background is in agriculture, natural resources, youth development, family, economic or community development, Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics offers you the skills and knowledge to be the positive force communities need.

Successful community engagement thrives on understanding the needs and conditions in your town, county, state or region. Tapping into a long legacy of one of the country’s most respected organizations, this training, brought to you by the Cooperative Extension Service and Regional Rural Development Centers, will provide you the resources and strategies to support your work in communities.

Best of all, this program comes to you, literally! Each week via Adobe Connect and Moodle online, an Extension Specialist will deliver world-class training to you in your office, conference room or even home.

Key Topics

- Uncovering and using data to determine changing conditions impacting your target audiences
- Getting a better handle on the key components shaping the economic health of your region
- Knowing the right people with the right knowledge and resources to advance your community work
- Identifying the important challenges facing your audiences
- Uncovering people’s hidden talents that can move communities forward

Register Today to have a greater impact in communities.
This exciting series – taught online using Adobe Connect and Moodle – will be offered on seven consecutive Fridays from October 7 to November 18, 2011. Each 90-minute Webinar presentation will start at 2:00pm ET.

**Foundations of Practice in Community Development**

**Level 1: Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics**

**Introduction to the Series and Basic Introduction to Community**

**October 7, 2011**

Want to know more about the principles of doing good community development work? Here’s the starting line. Covering the dynamics of community life, this introduction helps you discover some of the key characteristics of the community that can facilitate (or impede) the development of effective community-improvement programs.

**Community Demographics**

**October 14, 2011**

Doing quality community development work is pretty difficult if you lack a sound understanding of the current and emerging features of your community and its population. What are the population, economic, and social conditions and trends in your community? This session will provide you with valuable guidelines on ways to create useful data-based profiles of your community.

**Community Power Structure**

**October 21, 2011**

Knowing the visible and “behind the scenes” leaders in a community is crucial to any effort by a group to promote and advance key community development activities. Find out about the important layers of leadership in your community and the straightforward manner for identifying the various leadership roles that individuals play.

**Community Situational Analysis**

**November 4, 2011**

Every community has challenges that impede its ability to become stronger and more vibrant. But, taking the time to truly understand the mix of issues impacting the well-being of a community is crucial. Learn about a valuable process for engaging local people and groups in a systematic, step by step process for uncovering high priority issues and taking action on these concerns.

**Basics of Asset Mapping**

**November 11, 2011**

This session will introduce webinar participants to the asset-based community development (ABCD) approach and highlight the seven community capitals framework. The value of linking the asset-based community development process with the seven community capitals framework will be demonstrated.

**Community Economics**

**October 21, 2011**

Money comes and goes, but knowing who’s bringing it in, how it’s being invested, and how it’s leaving the community is important to supporting a vibrant economy. Learn about the many facets of a community’s economic complexion in this session.

**Community Development Process**

**November 18, 2011**

Several approaches can facilitate the ability of communities to get things done. Learn about some valuable tools and procedures – both past and present – that can offer a valuable roadmap on how to pursue good community development work.

**What to Expect**

Going beyond a lecture series, this training offers participants supplemental learning materials, group discussion opportunities, and additional resources allowing the exchange and discussion of ideas, challenges, and opportunities.

**How to Sign Up**

Find the registration form online at [http://fop-fall2011.eventbrite.com](http://fop-fall2011.eventbrite.com)

The cost is only $150 per person. If you are sharing a computer and phone line, the cost per additional person is $25. Each person must register. *Registrations cancelled prior to September 24, 2011 will be subject to a $35 cancellation fee. Registrations cancelled after September 27, 2011 are nonrefundable.*

The Foundations of Practice in Community Development is a joint effort of the Regional Rural Development Centers in partnership with the National Institute of Food & Agriculture.

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