

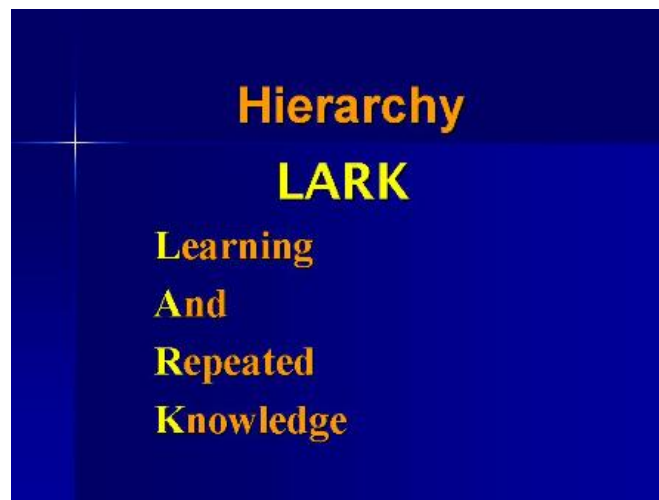
Chapter 18. Emerging Issues in Community Development

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BEHAVIOR OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter and completing the online learning activities, students should be able to

1. Understand the significance of regionalism to the community development field and some of the obstacles practitioners face in promoting community collaboration.
2. Describe how community informatics can influence community development practice.
3. Be aware of how homeownership affects community interaction.
4. Understand how local food systems address the problems associated with the corporate food system.
5. Understand how local food systems emphasize the role of community in markets.
6. Identify some of the basic challenges that practitioners face in building local food systems.



LARK Activity 18.1

Step 1. Working alone select the best answer to each question.

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1. In the chapter, one of the major obstacles to building local food systems that was identified is:

- a. matching the demand for food from local organizations and institutions *
- b. lack of demand from consumers
- c. resistance by restaurants and other retail establishments
- d. health considerations

2. A primary motivation for promoting regionalism in the field of economic development is:

- a. It reduces the tax burden on residents.
- b. Labor and retail markets do not correspond with municipal boundaries. *
- c. Corporations prefer to deal with a single rather than multiple government entities.
- d. It reduces the impact of local governments.

3. Farm-to-school programs offer several benefits. Which of the following was not considered one?

- a. Improved health
- b. Nutrition education
- c. Improved academic achievements of students *
- d. Support for local farms

4. It was argued in the chapter that one of the chief benefits of community informatics is:

- a. It is less expensive than face-to-face meetings.
- b. Anonymity—people are more likely to voice their opinion in this setting than face-to-face.
- c. Reduced centralized control over the flow of information in the community. *

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5. According to this chapter, which of the following would not be considered a barrier to community collaboration?

- a. race segregation
- b. income segregation
- c. proximity to an interstate highway *
- d. rural-urban differences

Step 2. Form groups of four or five students and select the best response to each question.

Feedback

- Questions
- Discussion

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SOAR ACTIVITY 18.1

HOUSING MARKET EXERCISE

You have been asked to assess the supply of and demand for housing for a municipality or county. At a minimum, your analysis should define affordable housing in this community and provide an estimate of the percentage of the population that does not have access to affordable housing. You should also examine the extent of racial segregation in the community and assess how it has changed. You might consider the following issues: Look at rental housing and estimate how well this sector is meeting the demand. How much new housing is built in the county each year? What types of houses are being built? What is the median cost of housing in the county? Are there any alternative housing institutions in the county?

One excellent source of data for examining a housing market is the HUD USER data website:

<http://www.huduser.org/datasets/pdrdatas.html>

In particular, take a look at a few of the key data sources, such as: State of the Cities

Data System: <http://socds.huduser.org/index.html>

Assisted Housing: <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/assthsg.html>

Don't forget to look at the factfinder website again. One primary source of data for this project is the American FactFinder (<http://factfinder.census.gov/>). This is a powerful and useful tool that provides data from the 1990 and 2000 censuses as well as from the Economic Census, population estimates and American Community Survey. One of the important options in this website is the

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ability to obtain information at several different geographic levels. FactFinder will also allow you to make custom tables and produce reference maps and thematic maps.

Sample of housing market analyses:

http://www.huduser.org/publications/econdev/mkt_analysis.html



LIFE ACTIVITY 18.3 DEFINING REGIONS

This learning exercises focuses on how regions are defined in your state. State agencies and organizations often define regions differently. Financial and retail markets may vary significantly. Commuting patterns may not coincide with any of these other regions. The goal of this project is to collect information on different ways of defining regions in your state. In many cases, you will find maps on the internet that define service territories or regional

divisions. Assess these different regional definitions and see if you can find a way of drawing regions that makes sense with respect to economics, environmental, political and social boundaries. How would you draw a map that made the most sense? To do this, you might want to look at how regions are defined in several different realms (states will vary in terms of how much data is available in these different realms):

1. Watersheds
2. Workforce development areas
3. Regional Planning districts
4. State agency regions
5. Cooperative Extension districts
6. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) regions
7. Any other regional entities that may exist in your state