Glossary

Accessible – Making sure that all members of the community have access to the same resources, services, and opportunities, and that those resources, services, and opportunities are tailored to meet the needs of the community.

Collaboration – Exchanging information, altering activities, sharing resources, and enhancing the capacity of one another for mutual benefit and to achieve a common purpose.

Community – A group of individuals who share common characteristics, interests, or geographic location, come together to pursue a common goal, share experiences, support one another, and form social connections.

Diversity – The presence of a wide range of individual differences within a group or organization, including differences in race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, physical ability, socioeconomic status, and other characteristics. Diversity is an important factor in creating an inclusive and equitable environment.

Empowerment – Providing resources, support, and education to help community members build their skills, capacity, and leadership. Empowerment is the granting of autonomy and self-determination to individuals and communities. This allows them to express their interests in a responsible and autonomous manner, acting with their own authority.

Equality – State of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities. It can refer to the equal distribution of resources, opportunities, and privileges among all members of a society. It can also refer to the idea of treating everyone with respect and dignity, regardless of race, gender, age, or other factors.

Equitable community - A community in which all members have equal access to resources, opportunities, and services, regardless of their race, gender, religion, or other factors. It is a community that works to ensure that everyone has the same chance to succeed and reach their full potential.

Equity – Fair and just treatment of all individuals

Fairness – Is the quality of being just, impartial, and reasonable. It is treating people equally without favoritism or discrimination.

Inclusive – Including all people, regardless of their differences, such as race, gender, age, or ability. It is the opposite of exclusive, which means excluding certain people or groups.

Individual skills & competencies – The abilities and knowledge that an individual has acquired through experience, education, and training. These skills and competencies enable an individual to perform a specific job or task.

Justice – The quality of being just, fair, and reasonable, especially in the way people are treated or decisions are made.

Safety – The state of being protected from harm or other non-desirable outcomes.

Servant Leader –   Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership states that while traditional leadership generally involves the accumulation and exercise of power by one at the "top of the pyramid," servant leadership is different. The servant-leader shares power, puts the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible.

Sustainability –   The practice of using resources in a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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Additional Resources

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About the Center for Community and Economic Development

Michigan State University is the nation's premier land-grant university, and in that tradition, the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) is committed to developing and applying knowledge to address the needs of contemporary society.

Our mission is to advance MSU's land-grant mission by creating, applying, and disseminating valued knowledge through responsive engagement, strategic partnerships, and collaborative learning. We are dedicated to co-creating sustainable prosperity and equitable economies with communities.

Since its establishment in downtown Lansing, Michigan, in 1969, CCED, in partnership with public and private organizations, has developed and conducted numerous innovative programs that address local concerns while building the capacity of students, scholars and communities to address future challenges. Student, faculty, and community involvement is a crucial element of the CCED's mission. The CCED focuses its resources on the unique challenges of distressed communities throughout the state of Michigan.

In carrying out the mission of the CCED we:

- Create and **support** an innovative learning environment for collaborative learning in community and economic development

- Provide **training** and direct assistance designed to increase the capabilities of community-based organizations, private enterprises and public institutions

- Conduct **research** that assists in the development and implementation of effective problem-solving strategies

- Provide a **multidisciplinary** capacity to respond to the complex, interrelated issues of distressed communities

- Promote and **expand** MSU's capacity to provide needed training, direct assistance, and research to address the issues of communities