## FLORIDA EXTENSION INITIATIVE 6:

# SUPPORTING URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUE AREA #2: COMMUNITY-BASED CAPACITY BUILDING

### SITUATION

Today, we live in an increasing complex world. During the last 20 years, Florida's rapid population growth created an economy that was based on tourism, construction, real estate development, and agriculture. Currently we are in a depressed economy, but expectations are that it will rebound in the future. The economic swings present unique challenges and opportunities. Floridians in both urban and rural areas will strive to maintain and expand the local economy, while preserving the state's rich natural resources that enhance the lives of our residents and communities. Often these efforts cause stress and conflict in local communities as they try to balance a strong economy, clean environment and a healthy population. Citizens need the best available science-based information to assist them in making decisions that have implications for themselves, their families and communities. They also require skills to effectively collaborate and/or manage conflict over these complex issues.

Community-based capacity building (CCB) is a process where extension faculty engage citizens to become involved in local issues, and provides the community sound public choices amid uncertainty and conflict. Extension can help local citizens educate themselves about public issues that affect them, and provide citizens with tools to make better informed choices. Extension can also help citizens deal with increasingly complex and controversial issues where there may be no clear solution, or may even have conflicting science. The goals of these programs are to have individuals in the community actively involved in the issues that affect them, and to strengthen individuals and communities by promoting adoption of behavioral changes and decisions that demonstrate economic, environmental, and social resilience.

Current Programs and Activities: Natural Resources Leadership Institute, Sustainable Floridians, Community Matters, Center for Public Policy Education, Designing Green Development, County Water Schools, Healthy Housing and Community Development, Community Flow, Living on the Coast, Turning the Tide on Poverty, Envision Alachua, Community Gardening

#### PROGRAM OUTPUTS

- **Short-Term Outputs:** Existing extension programs are revised and new programs are developed that will provide citizens with new knowledge and skills to address community and social issues.
- **Short-Term Outputs:** Extension faculty receive the knowledge, skills and evaluation methods of these capacity-based building programs that they can provide into their local communities.
- Short-Medium Term Outputs: Trained Extension faculty provide CCB programs to local communities.
- Long-term Outputs: Extension faculty are able to document social, environmental and economic impacts in their local communities, based on the community-based programs that they deliver.

#### **PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

- Short-Term Outcomes: Community clientele participate in extension-led meetings to address local community issues.
- *Medium Term Outcomes:* Community clientele have increased skills that sustain leadership in local community issues.
- Medium Term Outcomes: Increased collaborations among individuals and organizations to address community issues.
- Long-term Outcomes: Sustained leadership and thriving partnerships within communities to address common issues.

### AUDIENCE

Community leaders and decision-makers, members of community organizations, active and engaged citizens interested in local and regional community issues

#### **EDUCATIONAL METHODS**

Group learning workshops, webinars, fact sheets, power point presentations, short YouTube vignettes, case studies, curricula, role-playing, reading/writing assignments, blogs for continuing discussions, study groups.

#### RESULTS

- Decision-makers and active citizens identify Extension as source of information and partner to address community issues.
- Local citizens resolve complex issues based on knowledge, skills and support provided by extension faculty and staff.
- Sustainable, resilient, communities with demonstrated civic engagement.

### NEEDS

Funding is needed to provide training for extension faculty, specialist support and programmatic expenses, as well as funds for short-term and long-term evaluation of programs.

#### **SUPER ISSUES**

Community building programs are inter-disciplinary and can cut across the following super issues.

- Awareness and appreciation of food systems and the environment.
- Resource sustainability and conservation in Florida communities.
- Financial management for individuals and enterprises.
- Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) opportunities for youth.
- Help Floridians develop healthy lifestyles.

# Issue Area #2: Community-Based Capacity Building

Communities deal with complex lasues that demand leadership. These leadership issues have inter- connected social, economic and environmental problems with systems. These problems will increase d local community leadership protect shifts Community leadership protect shifts Community leadership connected social, economic and environmental problems with economic and demographic shifts community leadership protect and state specialists for initial cohort group community leadership protect and state specialists for initial cohort group Partners leadership protect and state specialists to for concept and to leadership protect and state specialists to rease protect and state specialist to rease protect and state s	SITUATION		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES		
With complex issues that demand leadership. These issues that issues that issues that issues that inter- connected social, economic and span disciplines, mytoinentialPIE Staffplanning Committee to develop CCB materialsCCB Leadership vork Group established and to Develop curricula and educational to District areasKnowledge, skills, and educational to Develop curricula areasconsumption established and to Develop curricula areasCOB tradership established areasknowledge, skills, and conditionce of extension faculty activitiesof engagement of to be involved in communityleadership sustained leadership programs to be involved in communityleadership and educational areasproblems systems.Facultyand educational factsheets, power points, webinars, each District and each District and seconomic and and value genoment al demographic shiftsmong citizens to be involved in community activitiesIncreased capacity building skills among citizens the adership in their local communitiesThese problems will increase with deconomic and addengaphic shifts training ard to localResearch BaseSelect faculty from each District and for initial cohort group each bistrict and for initial cohort group eadership is art for initial cohort group adaility and resilientEducational tool kit developedEducational tool kit developedIncreased training and metings as proof of concept and to arasitabe for assestament tools available for assestament tools atability and resilientPartners test materials<					Knowledge	Actions	Conditions
Extension has a role in building local leadership and providing alternative strategies to       to measure effectiveness of training       Trained agents conduct CCB programs       issues         Evaluate program       Evaluate program       Regular planned       Regular planned	with complex issues that demand leadership. These issues have inter- connected social, economic and environmental problems that span disciplines, knowledge base and value systems. These problems will increase with economic and demographic shifts Community leadership is critical to local sustainability, viability and	NRLI Staff PREC Staff Faculty Time Money Research Base Materials Equipment Facilities Technology Partners Leveraged	planning Committee to develop CCB materialsDevelop curricula and educational tool kit (workshop, factsheets, power points, webinars, videos)Select faculty from each District and state specialists for initial cohort groupConduct pilot trainings as proof of concept and to test materialsDevelop	CCB Leadership Work Group established and utilized in District for CCB in local areas Existing programs promoted and/or revised to include CCB activities Educational tool kit developed Set of training workshops held and materials distributed Assessment tools available for evaluation of	Increased knowledge, skills, and confidence of extension faculty that lead to increased local community development activities Community stakeholders participate in extension-led training and meetings to address local community problems Communities begin to request extension assistance in community	Increased degrees of engagement of local stakeholders to be involved in community leadership activities Increased capacity building skills among citizens that sustain leadership in their local communities Increased partnerships and collaborations across/among extension faculty, other agencies and local community	Established leadership within local communities Sustained leadership programs within local communities Thriving inter- agency groups and organizations in local communities Sustainable and resilient communities, with demonstrated civi
issues extension program	role in building local leadership and providing alternative strategies to address these		effectiveness of training	conduct CCB programs Regular planned evaluation of CCB	issues		

- Need for extension faculty training in community capacity building
   Florida communities will continue to grow with conflict over resources

- Extension can play leadership role in addressing local problems
  Training will lead to more competent faculty to address issues
  Training program will be universal for both rural and urban audiences

- Florida economy. Growth/decline will lead to new complex issues -Support for Capacity Building Programs within UF structure
- -Partners and staff may change over time that affect training/delivery Competent faculty to address issues