

## PREPARATION

- Negotiate agency support
- Build knowledge of the locality or field of concern
- Communicate your commitment to community members



## ENTERING, EXPLORING THE COMMUNITY

- Build team support and participation
- Develop partnerships with coordinating organizations
- Cultivate relationships with key people
- Carry out a social audit or information project
- Work on a shared action plan or...
- ...engage with a host organization on a project
- Develop education on and exploration of concerns

### STRATEGIC FOCUSES

- Community resources
- Cultural projects ● Documentation
- Environment ● Ethnicity
- Evaluation, assessment
- Excluded communities
- Health, housing ● Information
- Intergenerational issues
- Reaching out ● Training, skills



## UNDERSTANDING TYPES OF COMMUNITY WORK

Be clear about the main emphasis of your aims

- *Community action* is network-based, aiming to increase solidarity and support
- *Community planning* is participation-based, aiming to share in identifying and meeting needs
- *Community action* is issues-based, aiming to help powerless people achieve social change



## COMMUNITY WORK INTERVENTIONS

- Blend forms of intervention...
- ...but maintain your focus on community aims
- Build collaborative projects on issues of concern
- Link people with relevant organizations
- De-emphasize difficulties but...
- ...encourage community expression
- Develop leadership and representational skills
- Foster skills in applying for resources



## DEALING WITH CONFLICT

- Community work raises political struggles...
- ...but involves social work in social change
- Be assertive about the evidence on needs but...
- ...also emphasize community need and wishes
- Engage and reconfirm agency support
- Justify relevance to agency roles
- Build professional support and defences
- Avoid making your personal views public

