

Tomorrow's Community

A GUIDE FOR DEVELOPING RURAL COMMUNITIES¹

Communities are made up of people and the things that people have and do—their programs, activities and interrelationships. Like all things that are alive, communities are constantly changing. These changes are beneficial to the extent that advantageous choices are made and worthwhile programs developed.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING?

Community planning provides a way of looking ahead and making the choices which contribute consistently to better community life. It includes:

- (1) analyzing community problems
- (2) deciding on activities to be developed
- (3) outlining steps by which programs can be achieved
- (4) enlisting participation
- (5) checking results
- (6) keeping members of the community informed.

Community planning differs from other types of rural planning in that it deals with all that enters into community life in a local area. It aids land-use planning and comparable endeavors by coordinating different interests and by showing how one factor in community development is related to other elements in the situation. In turn, each program which benefits the people in a community is a part of community planning.

The various elements in community growth may be classified in 10 groups as indicated in the following outline:

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