

# research in brief

## **Community Development Process Model**

The Shared Process Evaluation System (SHAPES), a community development process model, is presented as a problem-solver model that's prescriptive and brings practitioners closer to describing what actually happens in community development activities. This research report contributes to the development of a basic problem-solver model that has validity in different environments.

The SHAPES model is described as a predictor of process. It also describes what community development practitioners and participants experience in community development work.

An unexpected finding in this research inferred that there was a difference between the perceptions of community development practitioners and participants of the time span covered by the community development process. The community participant used a smaller "slice of reality" within the overall development of community development projects to conceptualize the development process than did the community development practitioner and theorists.

*Implication*

Being able to predict and describe the process of planned social change that takes place in community development work is a primary goal of community development practitioners. In these days of "tight money," program accountability is the name of the game. SHAPES could be a helpful instrument in program accountability.

The SHAPES model is a diagnostic instrument. To make it useful, community development practitioners need to be aware of the potential for misunderstanding. The differences between community development practitioners and participants uncovered in this research warrants more attention.

"Testing a Predictive Model of the Community Development Process."  
Richard Cawley. *Journal of the Community Development Society*, XII  
(No. 2, 1981), 47-62.

*Louis Thaxton*  
*University of Maryland-Eastern Shore*