

Fourteen Steps for Building a New Neighborhood Organization

- 1) A crisis or an organizer's initiative provokes a few people.
- 2) This determined handful forms the beginning team.
- 3) The team defines the exact nature of the issue to be worked on and begins to move.
- 4) Additional members are recruited as efforts on the issue pick up steam.
- 5) The team and followers achieve some success on the issue and seek outside allies if needed.
- 6) The team and others involved move to form a permanent organization, choosing to build the structure from either existing organizations or individual members.
- 7) The new organization evolves a strategy: it will get things done by pressure on government and other targets, or it will provide services to people, or even try to do both.
- 8) The new organization picks an additional issue or two, building power, utilizing cooperation, campaigning, and confrontation as appropriate.
- 9) Members are trained to be more effective.
- 10) Regular communication is established with members and with the public.
- 11) A stable source of income is developed, but no more than needed.
- 12) Alliances are made with other organizations as useful.
- 13) Evaluation is made a habit.
- 14) Recruiting new members and facing new issue go on continuously.