

Form Principles to Practice

Linking CDS Principles of Good Practice with the Community Capitals Framework

The CDS Principles describe how community development practice should be carried out. The Community Capitals Framework helps us consider what dimensions of community life are affected by actions and decisions. Used together, they provide a practical lens for planning, reflection and accountability



CDS Principle	Most closely linked principle	Reflective question
Co-Learning	Human, Social, Cultural	Are we creating mutual learning and building knowledge across the community?
Collaboration	Social, Physical, Economic	Are we building meaningful partnerships and shared decision-making?
Community-Driven Practice	Social, Cultural, Human	Are those most affected shaping the agenda and process?
Community Power	Social, Human, Economic	Does this strengthen community agency, leadership, and decision-making power?
Dignity within Diversity	Cultural, Social, Human	Are we practicing inclusion, cultural humility, and respect?
Economic Autonomy	Economic, Human, Physical	Are we practicing inclusion, cultural humility, and respect?
Social Justice	Human, Social, Economic, Cultural	Does this address exclusion, inequity, and structural barriers?
Sustainability	All Capitals	What are the cultural, social, economic, and environmental impacts over time?

Reflection prompts

- Which CDS principle is most visible in the work?
- Which community capitals are being strengthened?
- Is any capital being overlooked or weakened?
- What would need to change to align the work more fully with the principles and sustainability?

