

# Community Organizing

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**WHO ARE YOU?**

# **What we will cover today**

**Defining What Community Organizing Is - And What it is  
Not**

**Understanding Why We Organize**

**Knowing the Elements of Community Organizing**

# Defining Community Organizing



**An individual can march for peace or vote for peace and can have, perhaps, a small influence on global concerns. But the same individual is a giant in the eyes of a child at home. If peace is to be built, it must start with the individual. It is built brick by brick.**

**Dorothy Day**

**If people don't think they have the power to solve their problems, they won't even think about how to solve them.**

**Saul Alinsky**

**Change will not come if we wait for  
some other person or if we wait for  
some other time. We are the ones we  
have been waiting for. We are the  
change that we seek.**

**Barack Obama**

# **Community Organizing Is**

A method of engaging and empowering people with the purpose of increasing the influence of groups historically underrepresented in policies and decision making that affect their lives.

# Community Organizing Is

Often place-based, within communities, and members of the community are organized to act collectively in their shared interests.

Community organizing employs conflict tactics, and recognizes that conflict is a necessary part of change.



# Community Organizing Is

1. A tactic to address specific problems and issues
2. A longer-term engagement and empowerment strategy

# What Community Organizing

**IS NOT**

Activism

Mobilizing

Advocacy

Social Movement Building

Legal Action

Direct Service

Community Development

