

## Thursday, March 4

### **8:10 – 9:00 am      Session Goals and Activity Overview**

Following an introduction to the economic development session, Class XVII will gather in their assigned small groups. During the small group meetings, participants will be asked to Small group meeting

- Read and discuss the community description
- Identify volunteers for facilitator, scribe/timekeeper and reporter roles
- Discuss:
  - How will we work together?
  - What experience do I have in economic development?
- Identify any questions you may have about the group exercise assignment

### **12: 00– 1:00 pm      Lunch & Small Groups Discussion**

Following lunch, during this working session of approximately 30 minutes, each group should begin to answer the questions posed in the exercise overview for your group. Considering and answering the following questions about your community's **Strengths**, by discussing:

- What do we do really well?
- What are our greatest assets?

If time permits, continue the discussion by focusing on your community's **Opportunities** by discussing:

- What are our best possible opportunities to serve the community?
- How are we to partner with others?

### **4:30 – 5:30 pm      Small Group Work**

Continue the discussion by focusing on your **dreams and aspirations** for your community -

- To what do we aspire as a community?
- What is our preferred future?

and your community's desired **Results** by discussing:

- What are our measurable results?
- What do we want to be known for?

In addition, the groups should consider the following as time allows:

- How do you take what you want to do from a concept into action?
- Who will be responsible for leading the implementation of the new strategic plan?
- How will the nature of your group and the community you were assigned lead you to do differently from others in tackling similar problems?

## **Friday, March 5**

### **8:00 – 8:15 am            Pre-Session Discussion**

Your group should take these few minutes to assess where you are on the discussion tasks you have been assigned for your community. There is only one work session of less than one hour remaining. Also reflect on any new ideas or changes you might make to the work your group has completed so far.

### **11:00 – 12:00 pm            Lunch and Small Group Work**

Your group should complete two things during this session:

- 1)            the discussion assignment started yesterday
- 2)            prepare a short (less than 10 minutes!) report for the about your group's process, results and recommendations.

### **3:30 – 4:00 pm            Group Reports**

The reporter from each group should describe:

- The top two economic development strategies chosen for your community and how were they chosen
- How you will take what you want to do from a concept into action, and
- How you intend to address the challenges facing your assigned community in formulating your economic development strategies.