

Community organizing moves Arkansas forward



Organizing residents in rural, low-income communities to create change and improve quality of life



Panel organizers are helping community groups:

1. Support stronger leaders who work collaboratively to strengthen the community from within
2. Develop and implement plans to make progress on priority needs determined by the community
3. Pull the community together to work towards solutions and win local policy changes
4. Ensure better government by helping residents understand and participate in the political process

Residents in organized communities are creating change to move Arkansas forward by:

- ◆ Increasing voter awareness, engagement, and turnout
- ◆ Holding school boards and city councils accountable to ensure better policy at the local level
- ◆ Making their communities more livable with increased beauty and security
- ◆ Developing their own state policy initiatives and engaging legislators to get them enacted into law
- ◆ Achieving local policy wins such as new community centers, improved water infrastructure

Arkansas residents are making huge strides, but still face major challenges.

- ◆ Many residents in low-income and minority communities still face major obstacles to access and participation in government and the political process.
- ◆ Communities in rural South Arkansas are struggling to overcome decades of economic neglect, lack of development, and racial and economic divisions.

The Panel uses these strategies to organize and support residents:

1. Building Organizational Structure & Sustainability

The core of our strategy involves taking residents through a strategic planning process where they determine their vision for improving their community, set attainable goals, and implement strategies for reaching them. We provide support to help groups build the infrastructure and capacity to attain their goals.



2. Providing information and training

The Panel provides quality information and training to residents about how government works, how to engage in the political process, and how to engage with local officials while holding them accountable. We help residents access the information and resources they need to tackle the issues they decide are most important



3. Supporting leaders who work for change

We promote shared leadership among residents that emphasizes working together to achieve collective goals. Panel organizers help leaders to develop their skills and deepen their analysis of issues.

Community groups that partner with the Panel

- ◆ Gould Citizens Advisory Council
- ◆ Concerned Citizens of the Marvell Area
- ◆ Concerned Citizens of Monticello
- ◆ Pine Bluff Concerned Citizens
- ◆ Desha Grassroots Coalition
- ◆ Southeast Regional Council
- ◆ United for Responsible Gas Exploration
- ◆ Camden Community Association
- ◆ Concerned Citizens of Prescott
- ◆ Concerned Citizens of Huttig
- ◆ Strong Community Leadership Alliance
- ◆ Southwest Arkansas Good Government Commission
- ◆ South Arkansas Education Coalition



Our work and partnerships have helped residents to work together and fight for better communities. Join us to build a statewide movement for change in Arkansas!