

Budget Justification Resources

Frequently Asked Questions – continued

8. *What does a Community Resource Development Agent contribute to your county?*

A CRD agent helps people make decisions by providing educational assistance. The agent works with community organizations cutting across the jurisdictional boundaries of city, village and town government. The agent is an educational resource for the County Board as well as other county officials and professionals.

Education comes in a variety of forms; one-on-one counseling, group presentations, facilitation of discussions, and even providing a neutral forum for discussion of contentious issues. Agents work closely with groups such as Chambers of Commerce and local governments as well as individuals, depending on the situation. In addition to strong personal skills, agents have access to university-based state specialists to help meet community educational needs.

Agent roles are always grounded in education. Agents may have a leading role in problem identification and strategy building. An agent can play a contributing role in planning and meeting educational objectives in broad programs involving well-defined needs or provide ongoing services to local officials in fostering leadership and organizational development. Agents also conduct specialized educational programming, including data analysis and applied research.

Depending upon locally determined need, the CRD agent may be involved in a wide variety of local problems or issues. The CRD agent can be a catalyst to educate and to link technicians, planners, investors, taxpayers and local officials. The CRD agent works to bring world-class information to the local level. Through working with community-based networks, coalitions and partnerships, the agent provides the educational input to help a community address its important local needs.

CRD agents make a real difference by conducting a wide range of educational programs on community, natural resource and economic development issues, including:

- Capacity building programs for local government of officials and community leaders
- Land use and smart growth programs
- Community economic development programs
- Waste management and pollution prevention programs
- Water quality programs
- Natural resource management and conservation programs
- Environmental education programs