University & Community Partnership towards Sustainability

Dick Cook
Social Work Community Outreach Service
Our Goal

Rebuild the dwindling capacities of Baltimore’s historically strong community-based organizations
Background

*Lexington Market*
Baltimore, Maryland
1921
Photographer
unknown
Baltimore City Life
Museum Collection,
Maryland Historical
Society
Historical Trends

Early 1900’s
- Grassroots leadership
- Strong neighborhoods

Late 1900’s
- Umbrella nonprofits
- Issue based action

Last Decade +
- Safety Nets disappear quickly
- Services decline
Why do they disappear?

Mission

Energy

Time

Resources

Mission
Need Solid Foundation

- Strategy
- Leadership
- Vision
- Diversity
Lack of Infrastructure = Vulnerability to Major Shifts

Changes in Leadership, Funding Sources, Constituent Base
Our Response: SWCOS

- Resource Mentoring Project
- Neighborhood Fellows
- Grad Students
- Public Allies
- Leadership Competencies
- ReServe
Help Plugging Leaks: Funding

Accessible Operating Support
Matching Grants
Community Organizing Endowments
Help Plugging Leaks: Leadership
Help Plugging Leaks: Awareness

Democracy rests on the ability of citizens to **organize and mobilize**.

Grassroots organizations serve a **critical function** in this mobilization.
Questions

• What are other ways we can plug the leaks?
• How might you assist this effort?