

Guiding Principles for Fostering Vibrant and Thriving Communities

- . In order for a community or economic development program to be sustainable it must grow from *within* the community. *(People are more committed to ideas and plans they help create.)*
- . *Diverse and inclusive* participation and leadership will enrich program planning and implementation.
- . Sustainable growth builds on local talents, assets, and resources.
- . Partnerships, collaborations and networks are powerful tools that can help a community maximize their assets and resources.
- . Sustainable growth requires development opportunities in *every* sector of the community.
- . Innovative thinking is a process of generating ideas that can be used to solve problems, increase profits, or invent new products or



Community and Economic Development (CED)



When North Carolina Cooperative Extension got its start a century ago, the goal was simple, but ambitious: Extend the knowledge of our nation's universities to the people so that they might lead better lives. That goal remains the focus of our efforts today.