

Organizing for Empowerment



COALITION BUILDING

Coalition building is a strategy for empowerment that gives residents a louder voice while reducing competition for resources.



A larger coalition made up of individual constituents and/or nonprofits will create a powerful platform from which to advocate, resulting in a critical mass that strongly articulates the needs of the community.

Model: The Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network consists of **10 community-based organizations** and is committed to social change through the civic engagement of the more than **25,000 individual constituents** in the Network.

ORGANIZING PROCESS



READY TO FUNDRAISE?

SHORT-TERM: FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

As an alternative to creating a tax-exempt organization, you could get fiscal sponsorship. This allows you to piggyback on an existing organization's nonprofit status to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions and additional assistance.

Potential fiscal conduits: Fund for the City of New York, Brooklyn Community Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Open Space Institute.

LONG-TERM: NONPROFIT

Identify and elect individuals who have a diverse set of qualities to serve as Board of Directors members.


Seek free legal assistance from New York Lawyers for the Public Interest to help with the following steps to incorporate into a registered Not-for-Profit Corporation:

File Articles of Incorporation with NY State

 \$75

 2 weeks

Apply for 501(c)3 IRS Tax-Exempt Status

 \$400-\$850

 18 months

Charitable Registration with NY/Other States

 \$25

 Up to 2 months