

PATHWAYS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Pathways of Community Engagement serve as a tool and a guide to illustrate the various possibilities by which Utahns can give back to their communities. Below, all six pathways are clearly defined with examples of what each pathway could look like in action.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND ACTIVISM

The process of involving, educating, and mobilizing individual or collective action to influence or persuade others.

Examples:

- Participating in a march to protest the Defense of Marriage Act
- Organizing your peers to work for affordable housing
- Writing a news story about stores with bad working conditions
- Creating an art exhibit to raise awareness about human rights violations in Congo

COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING AND RESEARCH

Connecting coursework and academic research to community-identified concerns to enrich knowledge and inform action on social issues.

Examples:

- Researching the possible effects deforestation would have on a community
- Evaluating the impact and effectiveness of a new curriculum in a middle school
- Enrolling in a patient advocacy program that combines coursework with field experience in health clinic
- Reviewing the literature on best practices in order to create a policy brief for an organization

DIRECT SERVICE

Working to address the immediate needs of individuals or a community, often involving contact with the people or places being served.

Examples:

- Tutoring at an after-school program
- Gathering supplies for hurricane victims
- Contributing expertise on a nonprofit board
- Joining the armed forces or Peace Corps

PHILANTHROPY

Donating or using private funds or charitable contributions from individuals or institutions to contribute to the public good.

Examples:

- Giving \$20 to the Red Cross
- Raising money for cancer research
- Forming a giving circle to donate regularly to NGOs in the Philippines
- Working at the Global Fund for Women and making grants to nonprofit organizations

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Participating in political processes, policymaking, and public governance.

Examples:

- Registering voters
- Writing a letter to a congressional leader about campaign finance reform
- Running for city council
- Phone-banking for a presidential campaign

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Using ethical business or private sector approaches to create or expand market-oriented responses to social or environmental problems.

Examples:

- Developing a micro-lending project for low-income teens to start small businesses
- Employing formerly incarcerated people to run a business
- Selling fair trade clothes to support seamstresses in India
- Starting a consulting arm to generate income for a nonprofit