



Improving Our Communities

Indicators and Community Practice

Working Together

May 12-14, 2005 - Hotel Washington - Washington, DC

On behalf of the co-sponsors, NAPC and CIC, **“Welcome to the conference!”**

We hope you will gain some new ideas from the presentations ... meet and learn from colleagues who are working on similar issues all across the country and at the national level ... and leave with new tools, new friends, new insights, and a new awareness of possibilities for using indicators for positive community change.

NAPC (the National Association of Planning Councils) has been working since 1992 to promote quality community planning, and to support its members as they each provide leadership for community-based human services and health planning and action ... “working together to build strong and caring communities across America.” For many decades, planning councils have applied values and approaches which continue to help communities identify needs and work together toward solutions. Through its annual conference, website (www.communityplanning.org), and other initiatives, NAPC builds knowledge and networks.

CIC (the Community Indicators Consortium) is brand new. NAPC was among CIC’s founding partners. Its purpose is to promote communication among and help integrate the efforts of various networks, organizations and individuals involved in community indicators work in the U.S. and around the world. The ultimate goal is to enhance the effectiveness of these networks, organizations and individuals in advancing the art, science, and impact of indicators for improving the health, quality of life and sustainability of communities. CIC sponsored a first international indicators conference in Reno in March 2004, and is now planning a next conference in December 2005. Learn more about CIC online: www.communityindicators.net.

Clearly, **NAPC and CIC** and their members/affiliates have much in common. We decided to work together to present this conference as a means of learning together about best practices in using indicators in the context of community planning, as a tool for understanding issues, tracking changes, documenting progress, and informing and mobilizing action.

CIC and NAPC believe that social indicators of the well-being of people and communities deserve the same national attention as economic indicators. The potential is great. The indicators field is growing and evolving rapidly, with the advent of new technologies and a growing reliance on information for decision making. CIC is still defining its role, and discussions at this conference are expected to help shape the future direction of CIC and the indicators movement.

The people attending this conference include some of our country’s most prominent leaders and practitioners in these areas. Everyone here has experiences and expertise to share. Let’s use this time to think, interact, learn, and plan together about how best to use the insights and tools from community planning and from community indicators to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Please check with Conference Coordinators [Ken Jones \(CIC\)](#) and [Sharon Clark \(NAPC\)](#) if we can be helpful to you.

Enjoy the conference!