

## Overview Information: How Organizations use TimeBanking

### How does my Organization “earn hours” to give away?!

- First, unlike the dollar-based, market economy, having a negative balance is not a big deal in a TimeBank account.
- Having said that, there are a number of ways to add hours to your Organization’s account:
  - **Special Community Fund:** contributed to by individual members; the hours are set aside for community projects.
  - **Individual Members:**
    - Individuals “donate” surplus hours from their account.
    - Some organizations encourage members to provide TimeBank services on behalf of the organization (*you earn the TimeBank credits for their time...*)
  - **Partnership Level membership structure:**
    - Gives Organizations benefits/visibility in return for a small annual membership fee. Membership donation is based on your operating budget.
    - 100 hours for noncommercial use to support community projects or to reward volunteers for their time.
    - Developing a structure to allow organizations to acquire additional blocks of time
    - **NOTE: during startup, we are waiving this fee for new organizations...**
    - <http://www.timebankindy.org/join/organizations/partners-partnership-levels>

*Organizations are creative in funding their Time Bank memberships. Possible ideas include:*

- *holding a Time Bank membership fund drive*
- *asking a benefactor to purchase your organization’s annual membership*
- *use funds from budget’s volunteer, advertising, and/or professional fees line items.*

### What are the benefits / drivers for using TimeBanking?

#### a. Asset-Based Community Development – how to engage those we “serve” or “help”

Source: <http://timebanks.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Co-ProductionPrinciple.pdf>

#### Valuing the Role of Community in our Economy

- Typically, we think of public goods as being produced by the government and paid for with public funds. That is not necessarily the case.
  - The non-monetary sector of the economy also includes housework and efforts that go in caring for relatives, both of which relieve the welfare system of considerable sums that would otherwise go to education, foster care or nursing homes.
  - The social support provided by families and neighborhoods underpins everything else in the economy. It is the 'core' economy – the economy of family, neighborhood and community – on which we all rely.
- With the reality or risk of spending cuts on social welfare programs, we need to find other means of valuing the contributions made from people in our communities.
- TimeBanking was created over thirty years ago as an “alternative currency” – a way to pay people for what needs to be done.
- Time Dollars value everyone’s contributions equally

#### Co-Production

- Creates a reciprocal relationship that turns welfare beneficiaries from dependent supplicants to equal partners who are earning what they need by doing the vital work society needs.

- Clients play an active role, contributing their own energies and skills to the search for a solution, earning the help and resources needed for change by contributing to their community and to others.
- Professionals may no longer see themselves as dispensers of benefits because that mindset can easily disempower clients.
- Challenges how some social service and community organizations approach the delivery of programs and services.
- Offers greater potential for success and sustainability by engaging those involved as co-workers and co-producers.
- Rewards for contributing have to be earned in the neighborhoods – not (necessarily) in the market economy. It challenges us to rethink “entitlements.”
- TimeBanking offers a way for “clients” to reconnect and contribute their gifts and talents to their communities and neighbors.

### Examples of this approach:

- **General**
  - [See source article](#): Education, Elderly, Justice & Diversion Programs, Child Care, Health, Social Services, Mental Health

### **b. Finding ways to support your volunteers or staff**

- Give TimeBank credits in return for volunteers’ time and talents. They receive, in return, help with their own needs.
- For staff, some organizations integrate TimeBanking into their benefits package to ease work-life conflicts and help employees lead more balanced lives.
  - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2015/08/20/the-innovative-stanford-program-thats-saving-emergency-room-doctors-from-burnout>

### **c. Finding volunteers in the community for special projects or ongoing needs**

- Help connect with the community, save money, access a diverse database of helper, reduce work load for staff.
- Examples (*make “requests for help” in the TimeBank*):
  - Regular Cleaning - We need someone who is willing to clean for about 1 hour a week to keep our building fresh and tidy.
  - Flower Bed Help - We need help with shoveling and building some new beds
  - Dump Run - Heading up to the dump? Can you take a few bags up for us?
- [http://www.timebankindy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/For-Organizations-TB\\_Indy1.pdf](http://www.timebankindy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/For-Organizations-TB_Indy1.pdf)

### More information available at

- <http://www.timebankindy.org/>
- [http://www.timebankindy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/For-Organizations-TB\\_Indy1.pdf](http://www.timebankindy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/For-Organizations-TB_Indy1.pdf)
- <http://igg.me/at/timebankindy/x/11622104>