Neighborhoods Now! is an innovative community educational series to strengthen the work of individuals and organizations working in neighborhoods to:

1. Organize to win issues for **people and places**.
2. Build power to change **systems** for racial equity and economic justice.
3. Build **organizations** whose leadership is **reflective** of the community.
4. Build diverse and effective cross cultural **collaborations**.

Registration for ‘Neighborhood Systems Change’ is now open.
Potential participants must fill out a Registration Form by the registration deadline (see course descriptions for deadline information) by visiting: [http://z.umn.edu/nnowregister](http://z.umn.edu/nnowregister). Because space is limited, we will contact you shortly after the registration deadline to confirm your enrollment.

**Neighborhoods Now! 2015-2016 Program Calendar**

Each course starts with an orientation class, followed by **Tuesday and Thursday classes from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. for 3 weeks**, and concludes with field work and graduation. **We are in the process of securing venues for ‘Neighborhood Systems Change,’ please stay tuned.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course Dates</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Issue Organizing</td>
<td>Jun 30 – Aug 13</td>
<td>Registration Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Systems Change</td>
<td>Sep 15 – Nov 3</td>
<td>Sep 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Representative Neighborhood Organizations</td>
<td>Jan 12 – Feb 23, 2016</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Cultural Collaboration</td>
<td>Mar 20 – May 10, 2016</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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**Neighborhood Issues Organizing**
- Organizing 101
- Life Cycle of an Organizing Campaign
- Leadership Development & Communications
- Field Work

**Building Representative Neighborhood Organizations**
- Racial Justice Block by Block
- Vision, Mission & Narratives: Racial Justice in Organizations
- Representative Base Building & Leadership Development
- Field Work

**Neighborhood Systems Change**
- Systems 101 – Historical Timeline
- Land Use Organizing
- Organizing to Change Systems & Narratives
- Field Work

**Cross Cultural Collaboration**
- Collaborations – The “Big Picture”
- Diverse Community Involvement
- Alliance & Coalition Building
- Field Work

Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing (MCNO) is a program of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota. We envision neighborhoods and communities where people are organized to identify and tackle local issues, building vital communities that value full participation and embody racial equity and economic justice. Our mission is to support place-based organizations to successfully take on local issues by developing the skills of community organizers and leaders.
Program Principles and Values
1. Place-based community organizing: people coming together to identify and work on local issues in a specific geographic area.
2. Community members understand their own issues like nobody else can, and must be the leading voice in setting their own agenda around decisions that affect them.
3. Leadership of neighborhood organizations should be accountable to and reflective of the diverse communities they represent.
5. Strategic collaboration across communities to create an equitable region.

Program Goals
- Build skills and knowledge for place-based community organizing through trainings and education programs.
- Provide access to customized experiences including mentoring, coaching, consulting, technical assistance and training.
- Build relationships among community organizers and leaders to share and support each other’s work.
- Explore and connect with strategic partnerships between organizations across multiple geographies to influence decision making on a broader scale.
- Create opportunities to link organizing work with other CURA community programs that provide organizing resources, community based-research, mapping and data visualization.

Who is this for?
We welcome participants who have a passion and interest in learning and practicing neighborhood organizing skills including neighborhood and community organization staff, board and volunteers, as well as neighborhood residents who are not formally connected to an organization. We welcome people at a variety of skill levels, from people who are just getting started to experienced organizers and leaders looking to refresh or gain new skills. For each class we aim to recruit a culturally and geographically diverse group of participants. You do not have to formally be part of a neighborhood association to attend.

How it Works
Neighborhoods Now! offers four different courses, each 6-8 weeks long. Course participants registering for a particular course will be expected to attend evening classes, followed by several weeks of field work to put the tools learned in practice. During field work, participants will have access to 1-2-1 assistance with MCNO staff. Participants will then report back before class completion. Each of the four courses has the following structure (each course may vary slightly):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Week 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>Class on Tuesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>Class on Tuesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>Class on Tuesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>Field Work</td>
<td>Field Work</td>
<td>Field Work</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
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Neighborhoods Now!
MINNESOTA CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING
Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a registration fee or cost to attend Neighborhoods Now!?
There is no registration fee or cost to attend a Neighborhoods Now! course.

Do I have to attend all courses and class meetings?
Although we want you to attend all of our courses and class meetings, we understand that you may have prior training or experience in some of the topics that we will cover. We also understand that your schedule may not permit you to attend all of the class meetings. If this is the case, please contact us so that we can understand your situation. Please note that four of the eight weeks is dedicated for you to practice what you will learn in the course - there will be no classes to attend during these three weeks.

Will there be accommodations such as childcare, transportation, and translation services?
If you have any needs that would prevent you from attending or if there are any accommodations we can provide to facilitate your participation, please let us know.

Who is eligible to register for and attend Neighborhoods Now!?
We welcome participants who have a passion and interest in learning about neighborhood organizing skills and issues including neighborhood and community organization staff, board and volunteers, as well as neighborhood residents who are not formally connected to an organization. We welcome people at a variety of skill levels, from people who are just getting started to experienced organizers and leaders looking to refresh or gain new skills. For each class we aim to recruit a culturally and geographically diverse group of participants. If you are not sure if Neighborhoods Now! is right for you, please contact us.

What is the fieldwork component of the courses?
The fieldwork component of the course happens after three weeks of classes and is designed as an opportunity for you to practice what you will learn. It is also an opportunity for you to receive one-to-one coaching from MCNO staff. Before exercising your newly acquired community organizing skills, we will go over the following with you:

• Where are you at with the work in your community/organization? What are you working on?
• What are the relationships in your area?
• How to develop a workplan.

Where will Neighborhoods Now! be held?
We are currently securing a venue for Neighborhood Systems Change and will update registrants regarding the location.