

Tool #11: Social Ministry Types

There are four main types of programs that address social needs in a community:

- **Relief services** (giving a hungry person a fish) meet needs by providing short-term aid such as food, clothing, or shelter.
- **Personal empowerment** (teaching a person to fish) provides support such as education, training, and counseling to help people develop their potential and achieve life goals.
- **Community development** (providing fishing equipment) renews the building blocks of a healthy community, such as housing, jobs, health care, and education.
- **Systemic change** (ensuring everyone has fair access to the fish pond) transforms political, economic, environmental or cultural domains through advocacy and organizing.

Social Ministry Type	Examples		Ministries fitting this type in your church
	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Family</i>	
Relief Services	<i>homeless shelter, emergency hotel vouchers</i>	<i>family crisis hotline, family services information and referral clearinghouse</i>	
Personal Empowerment	<i>home ownership seminar, credit counseling</i>	<i>parenting classes, family counseling, divorce recovery support group</i>	
Community Development	<i>affordable housing construction and rehabilitation, first-time homeowner financing program</i>	<i>legal aid clinic that offers family services, partnership with family mediation court</i>	
Systemic Change	<i>lobbying for housing subsidies for low-income families, pressuring landlords to improve housing conditions</i>	<i>encouraging employers to adopt "family friendly" policies, promoting pro-marriage legislation</i>	

Questions for reflection:

- a) Which of these types of social ministry are more prevalent in your church? Why is that type emphasized?
 - b) Which of these types would you want to see the church's community outreach grow to include?
- (See the tool, Moving from Relief to Development)