

# Barriers to Effective Use of GIS Technology by Community-Based Organizations

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## Personnel

**Principal Investigators:** Ann-Margaret Esnard, Ph.D.  
**Sponsor:** Lincoln Institute of Land Policy  
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## Project Description

Communities across the United States are undergoing rapid changes in land use, demographic, socioeconomic and infrastructure conditions. This research, funded by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy was sparked by a general observation that community based organizations (CBOs) do not use GIS effectively for community and land redevelopment initiatives even when software, hardware, training, data, formal partnership agreements and access to GIS services are all in place.

A sample pool of CBOs was surveyed to gather information about their community planning and land (re)development work, staffing, missions, geographic boundaries, GIS capacity, and perceived barriers to effective use of GIS.

Several findings and barriers were found, including lack of a mission statement that promotes use of IT use; difficulty in applying technology to existing projects; the mismatch between actual and known applications of GIS, and the ability of CBOs to survive without GIS. A revised GIS implementation framework focused on organizational capacity, context and analysis, instead of the traditional "hardware, software, data and people" components, was proposed as one of the recommendations.

## Publications

-  Esnard, A-M. 2007. Institutional and Organizational Barriers to Effective Use of GIS by Community-Based Organizations. *URISA Journal* 19(2):14-21.