

Community Economic Development Social Criteria Screen

Authority: The ELCA, as did its predecessors, has a legacy of investing in communities. Our deep concern for those affected adversely by our economy is most clearly articulated in the social statement “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All.”

Wording of screen: The ELCA seeks investment in for-profit and not-for-profit organizations that promote national or international economic development of urban and rural communities and neighborhoods characterized by a high proportion of people living in poverty and/or people of color.

Definition of problem: The field of community economic development or positive social investing continues to grow both domestically and internationally, especially through micro-finance loans. The goal is to maximize the flow of investment capital into projects that otherwise might not obtain sufficient capital to contribute to community economic development.

Recognizing that various investors will implement this along a continuum, such investments might include, but are not limited to: low-income housing, job creation and training, social services, public health, food and agriculture, infrastructure, community entrepreneurship, small business development and financial services.

Social policy and studies: “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All,”

http://www.elca.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Economic-Life?_ga=1.136651063.682366133.1390238070

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