

# WHAT DOES INTERGENERATIONAL MEAN?

*Hello! Are you interested in creating an intergenerational community center at your settlement house? These are spaces that intentionally bring together community members of all ages. They offer regular programs building on the resources all generations have to offer and benefit participants of all ages.*

*Generations Connect, an initiative of United Neighborhood Houses (UNH), helps settlement houses make intergenerational program approaches a core practice. This guide is part of a series of tools to support organizations embarking on the multi-year and iterative process of developing an intergenerational community center. Browse them all here: [unhny.org/intergenhub](http://unhny.org/intergenhub)*

## **What does Intergenerational mean?**

Intergenerational means bringing together more than one age group. Often, it refers to bringing together children and older adults, but intergenerational work can bring together any combination of different age groups. We use the term intergenerational because it reflects the idea of generations working together. A term like “all ages” implies there are many generations co-existing, but not necessarily exchanging experiences. Use whatever language best aligns with your goals and best speaks to your participants. You can even ask your community members what they’d want to name the work.

## **What are intergenerational community centers?**

Intergenerational Community Centers are spaces that bring together community members of all ages with intentionality and offer regular opportunities for them to work together. Staff from multiple program areas are invested in intergenerational programming.

## **What are intergenerational programs?**

Intergenerational programs intentionally bring together different age groups to accomplish a shared goal. Intergenerational programming builds on the resources older and younger generations have to offer, ensures that all age groups contribute equally or according to their ability, is mutually beneficial to all participants regardless of age, and promotes greater understanding between generations. Intergenerational programming encourages community connection and often addresses community issues. At its heart, this programming is about partnerships: across departments in your settlement house, and externally with various community partners.