Before entering into a new community, take the time to learn about the history, strengths, challenges and community context. Also take time to understand your own values, beliefs and various identities. Throughout your experience, challenge your own beliefs and assumptions and engage in thoughtful reflection about your work and your role.

**Questions to Ask Yourself**

- What are the systemic, historical and institutional forces that give rise to the issues that you hope to address?
- What skills and knowledge do you need to develop before serving in the community?
- What is your role in the community and how might your involvement be perceived?

Want to learn more? Email doce@duke.edu