

Community Capitals Framework

The Community Capitals Framework offers us a new viewpoint to analyze holistic community changes. The Framework encourages us to think systemically about strategies and projects, thus offering insights into additional indicators of success as well as potential areas of support.

Ripple Effect Mapping can be used to find where capitals are being addressed, improved, and having an impact on your community like the examples below.



NATURAL

What does the land give us? Assets in a particular location, including geography, natural resources, amenities, and natural beauty.

- Leaders enhance green space
- Community garden
- Community cleanup
- Park improvement

CULTURAL

How do we think and act in our community? The way people “know the world” and how they act within it, as well as traditions and language.

- A broader perspective issues
- Festivals/parades/celebrations
- A pro-youth community
- People believe they can shape their future
- “Giving back” both in dollars and time becomes a dominant value

BUILT

What is built on the land?

Infrastructure supporting these:

- Broadband
- Recreational facilities
- Small business incubator

HUMAN

What can I do? The skills and abilities of people to develop and enhance their resources.

- Increased knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship, leadership, grant writing, insect identification, how to run effective meetings
- Increase in volunteer hours

SOCIAL

What can we do together?

The connections among people and organizations or the social “glue” to make things happen. Bonding social capital = close redundant ties that build community cohesion. Bridging social capital = loose ties that bridge among organizations and communities.

- Develop small business-owner networks
- Youth-to-youth mentoring
- More organizations and groups are linked together through team participation
- Local businesses linked to agencies for technical support
- Farmer and producer mentors

POLITICAL

What about our political activities?

Access to power, organizations, connection to resources and power brokers. The ability of people to find their own voice and to engage in actions that contribute to the well being of their community.

- Business owners participate in state and local government
- Local elections have at least two candidates running
- Leadership is diversified – more women and young people run for office and start businesses

FINANCIAL

How do we pay for development now and in the future? Financial resources to invest in community capacity-building, underwrite business development, civic and social entrepreneurship, and accumulate wealth for future community development

- Create local investment clubs
- Create community foundations
- Savings and investment capital
- Increased grant writing capacity



A new way to explore overall (individual, group, community, or regional) changes that have taken place since participating in your program.



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WSU Extension, 2011

Community Capitals material adapted from: “Spiraling-Up: Mapping Community Transformation with Community Capitals Framework.” Emery and Flora (2006).

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