

Community and Economic Development Readiness Assessment

Assessment Questionnaire

The following statements will be answered with the following scale:

- Yes, adequate
- Needs improvement, actively making progress
- Needs improvement, little progress to date
- Needs attention, no action yet
- NA, this item is not relevant for our community
- DK, Don't Know

There are also two open ended questions.

Baseline Capacity: Services without which a community can't function well. These characteristics, such as safe water supply, telecommunications, and access to health care, are comparable across communities and over time, and are needed in all communities regardless of their economic development strategy.

Baseline Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
1. The community has a water system that meets or exceeds state and federal standards. Comments:						
2. The community has a water system that has capacity for growth. How much capacity is currently being used? _____% Comments:						
3. The community has water meters. Comments:						
4. The community has a wastewater system that meets or exceeds state and federal standards. Comments:						

Baseline Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
5. The community has a waste water system that has capacity for growth. How much capacity is currently being used? _____% Comments:						
6. The community has storm water drainage and flood retention systems. Comments:						
7. There are local businesses providing goods and services to residents. Comments:						
8. Community and businesses are served with adequate road and street system. Comments:						
9. There is local fire service available. Comments:						
10. There are police services available. What type? <input type="checkbox"/> city <input type="checkbox"/> county <input type="checkbox"/> state Comments:						
11. There are local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) available. Comments:						
12. There is a local clinic or primary care services (Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Family Physician) available in the community. Comments:						
13. There is a hospital within a 60 minute drive. Comments:						

Baseline Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
14. There are local immunization services available for children and adults. Comments:						
15. There is an assisted living facility in the community. Comments:						
16. There are single and multi-family rental housing for low and moderate income levels. Comments:						
17. The community has phone service available. Comments:						
18. The community has local internet access. Comments:						
Civic Capacity: Community vision, strategic plan, trained leadership, functional organizations, partnerships and collaboration. These items and baseline capacity need to be in place before community and economic development strategies or projects can be implemented and sustained.						
Civic Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
1. The community has a clear vision for the present and future. Comments:						
2. The community has considered its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and developed a strategic community and economic development plan. Comments:						
3. The strategic plan considers regional and state wide strategies and opportunities. Comments:						

Civic Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
4. Citizens are well informed about economic development activities. Comments:						
5. Citizens are given the opportunity to join community and economic development efforts. Comments:						
6. There is a track record of positive community action. Comments:						
7. There is a system to measure progress and to learn from results of action. Comments:						
8. The community celebrates successes. Comments:						
9. There is a recognized community and economic development group with structures and procedures that sustain positive action in the community. What is the Name of the group? _____ Comments: If there is no recognized community and economic development group, skip to statement #18						
10. The community and economic development group process is open and participatory; members are willing to contribute and explore new ideas. Comments:						
11. The community and economic development group is successfully building partnerships with other groups within and beyond the community. Comments:						

Civic Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
12. The community and economic development group is successful in obtaining local assistance and resources necessary to carry out its project goals. Comments:						
13. The community and economic development group is successful in obtaining external assistance and resources necessary to carry out its project goals. Comments:						
14. The community and economic development group has active participation by the diverse segments of the community. (e.g., economic, cultural, educational, occupational, neighborhood, age, ethnic, length of residence, etc.) Comments:						
15. Leadership of the community and economic development group reflects the diverse segments of the community. Comments:						
16. The community and economic development group seeks out training and assistance to improve members' skills and knowledge base to carry out action plans and accomplish goals. Comments:						
17. The leadership shares responsibility for carrying out the work of the community and economic development group rather than trying to do it all themselves. Comments:						
18. Leaders have skills and technical knowledge to work effectively in our community. Comments:						
19. Over time, the council and community groups have been able to draw new people into leadership positions (executive committee members, task force chairs, project leaders, etc.). Comments:						

Civic Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
20. A culture of entrepreneurship exists that recognizes and rewards new ideas, innovation, partnerships and collaboration. Comments:						
21. There is public and private sector participation and cooperation in local and regional efforts. Comments:						
22. The community boards, organizations and council have no open positions and there is a pool of volunteers to fill vacancies as they arise. Comments:						

Economic Development Capacity: Infrastructure, facilities and programs that contribute to economic development potential such as industrial sites, zoning that matches market realities, transportation infrastructure, etc. The importance of these items depends on a community's choice of strategy, so these should not be used to compare across communities.

Economic Development Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
1. There is a community and economic development group that is proactive rather than reactive. Comments:						
2. There is a committee or group that provides or brokers assistance to start up businesses or entrepreneurs. Comments:						
3. There is a committee or group that provides or brokers assistance to help retain or expand local businesses and industry. Comments:						
4. There is a committee or group that is involved with targeted recruitment of new retail, service and industrial businesses. Comments:						

Economic Development Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
5. The community has industrially zoned land that is ready to build or occupy at a reasonable market rate. Comments:						
6. The community has industrially zoned buildings that are ready to occupy or renovate at a reasonable market rate. Comments:						
7. The community has commercially zoned land that is ready to build or occupy at a reasonable market rate. Comments:						
8. The community has commercially zoned buildings that are ready to occupy at a reasonable market rate. Comments:						
9. The community has financial resources available for business and industrial development (revolving loan funds, venture capital, lending institutions, etc.). Comments:						
10. There is a focused business development organization that coordinates local efforts, markets assets, develops leads, negotiates and closes deals. Comments:						
11. There is local ownership of many businesses. Comments:						
12. Local owners of business and industry are committed to work with the community on improvements. Comments:						

Economic Development Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
13. There is economic diversity (e.g., diversified industries and many smaller businesses providing jobs in the community). Comments:						
14. There is a capable and productive workforce available. Comments:						
15. There is at least one organization providing or able to provide workforce education and training. Comments:						
16. There are training and educational opportunities for citizens of all ages. Comments:						
17. There are school to work, job shadow and intern programs available. Comments:						
18. Community and businesses are within close proximity (3–5 miles) to interstate or major hwy. Comments:						
19. The community and industry have access to rail service. Comments:						
20. The community and industry have access to barge or river transport. Comments:						
21. The community has access to commercial air service within 60 minutes. Comments:						

Economic Development Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
22. The community has competitively priced natural gas available. Comments:						
23. The community has competitively priced electricity available. Comments:						
24. There is access for citizens and business to high speed, broadband, interactive telecomputing technologies that support electronic exchange of data and information. Comments:						
25. There is wireless communication service available. Comments:						
26. There is a local or regional information technology forum or equivalent organization that is capable of providing planning, marketing, training and coordination in the use of telecomputing technologies. Comments:						
Community Development Capacity: Facilities, programs, attitudes and ordinances that contribute to quality of life and community development potential such as a community center, park, public transportation, etc.						
Community Development Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
1. The community has public transportation available (bus or taxi) within the community. Comments:						
2. Community members feel a sense of pride and attachment to the community and are optimistic about their future. Comments:						

Community Development Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
3. The community has clean-up and beautification as an ongoing priority. Comments:						
4. The community has a spirit of people helping each other. Comments:						
5. The community has library services available to citizens. Comments:						
6. The community has an adequately funded K12 school system. Comments:						
7. The community has at least one park. Comments:						
8. The community has recreation facilities available for residents of all ages. Comments:						
9. There is a community center. Comments:						
10. The community has a senior center and services. Comments:						
11. The community has a youth center and services. Comments:						
12. The community has childcare centers or services available sufficient to meet local needs. Comments:						

Community Development Capacity Statements	Yes	Actively Making Progress	Little Progress To Date	No Action Yet	NA	DK
13. There is open or green space in and around the community. Comments:						
14. The community has working relationships with the public and private sector managers of surrounding natural resources (fisheries, forests, ranches, etc.). Comments:						
15. The environmentally sensitive resources of the community are being adequately protected. Comments:						
16. The community approaches community and economic development in a sustainable way. Please define what this means to you. Comments:						
17. There are uniform building codes, subdivision ordinances and architectural standards. Comments:						
18. There is a utility operation and maintenance ordinance including rates and connection fees. Comments:						
19. There is a systems development charge ordinance. Comments:						

What strategies or projects have been successfully completed?

What are the key strategies the community is pursuing?