

# GOVERNANCE & ECONOMY

**Governance and economy** involve a community's capacity to engage its residents fully and equitably in a thriving and diversified economy and in an efficient governance system that enables prudent policy-making, preserves the rule of law and balances present and future needs.

## WHAT COMMUNITIES MIGHT LOOK LIKE WITH...

### LOW CAPACITY:

**Governance** - Laws, rules and regulations are unfairly enforced and inadequate to deal with existing issues. Government communication is often hard to find and/or hard to understand. Residents see the government as out of touch and the costs of public services as not worth the benefits they provide. Agency decisions disregard public opinion and stakeholder input. Government is not accountable; officials often run unopposed. The governmental workforce does not reflect community demographics.

**Economy** - Local unemployment is high, most jobs do not pay well, and the economy depends on only a few businesses/sectors. Economic and social mobility are minimal. Individuals, businesses, and government employees are skeptical about the future. Access to public goods, services and infrastructure are unequal. Economic and social wealth is declining.

### HIGH CAPACITY:

**Governance** - Legal frameworks are impartially applied, ensuring equal protection. People affected by public policies have direct access to agency information on the matter. Governing systems are responsive to resident/stakeholder input and designed in their best interests. Public resources are used efficiently to deliver useful services. Residents, including those with few social and economic advantages, are active in governance through voting, staying informed, and attending public meetings.

**Economy** - People readily participate in markets as workers, consumers and business owners. There is equal access to public goods, services and infrastructure. Good jobs, work opportunities, and incomes are expanding. Individuals, households, communities and enterprises are secure enough to invest in their future. The economy is resilient to shocks and stresses, especially those that can hurt persons living in poverty the most. Prospects for economic and social wealth are increasing and evenly available

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Think about **governance and economy** in your community, and mark on the horizontal line where you think your community falls between the description of '**low capacity**' and '**optimal capacity**'. Once you have made your mark, please list the opportunities and strengths that your community faces in the area of **governance and economy**. Examples are provided below.



**OPPORTUNITIES**

**STRENGTHS**

A large empty rectangular box with a red border, intended for listing opportunities.

A large empty rectangular box with a green border, intended for listing strengths.