



COPEWELL

COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING SELF-ASSESSMENT

Jurisdiction Name _____



COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING

The ability of a community to deliver goods and services to its residents

COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING:

Governance and Economy

GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMY INVOLVES

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 unintelligible and inaccessible. Residents see the government as out of touch and the costs of public services as not worth the benefits they provide. Agencies make decisions arbitrarily, disregarding public opinion and stakeholder input. Government is not accountable; officials often run unopposed. The composition of 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 is stagnant. Individuals, businesses, and government employees are highly skeptical about the future. There is unequal access to public goods, services and infrastructure. Economic and social wealth is declining over time.

OPTIMAL CAPACITY

Governance — Legal frameworks are impartially applied, for stakeholders' full 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 across the board. Individuals, households, communities and enterprises are secure enough to invest in their future. The economy is increasingly resilient to shocks and stresses, especially those that can hurt persons living in poverty the most. Prospects for economic and social wealth are increasing, evenly available, and sustained over generations.

RATIONALE

Explain reasons for your rating; cite data, if possible

NEXT STEPS

Describe next action points

COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING:

Life Necessities

**LIFE
NECESSITIES
INVOLVES**

A community's capacity to provide and maintain systems and infrastructure that enable sustained access to goods and services that are indispensable for life, including food, water, housing, and education.

WHAT COMMUNITIES MIGHT LOOK LIKE WITH...

**LOW
CAPACITY**

Few grocery stores provide affordable, fresh, and healthy food options. Water treatment plants and sewage systems do not routinely and equitably supply clean drinking water. Affordable and safe housing are in short supply; many units are not up to code or adequately insured. Students and teachers do not experience schools as safe and supportive environments, residents worry about school quality, and parents and community residents are uninvolved in school-related activities.

**OPTIMAL
CAPACITY**

Residents of all income levels can regularly access affordable, fresh, and healthy food options. A strong and sustainable water treatment and sewage system exists, providing drinking water that meets state/national standards. Most people believe that they live in safe and affordable housing and that housing discrimination or neighborhood segregation is not a major issue. Residents see local schools as safe and of adequate quality, and many parents and other residents are involved in school-related events.

RATIONALE

Explain reasons for your rating; cite data, if possible

NEXT STEPS

Describe next action points

COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING:

Health and Wellbeing

HEALTH AND WELLBEING INVOLVES

A community's capacity to promote, nurture, and protect the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of all people wherever they live, learn, work, worship, and play:

- Places where people can readily connect with each other and nature;
- Arts, culture and the opportunity for creative expression;
- Safety nets for elderly, children, the homebound, and others in need;
- Quality, accessible health care and adequate public health services.

WHAT COMMUNITIES MIGHT LOOK LIKE WITH...

LOW CAPACITY

Widely dissatisfied with their lives, residents feel little sense of purpose and emotionally and socially cut off from others. People see themselves as unable to influence their future. Places where people play, work, learn, live, and worship are not conducive to physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual health. Music and the arts play little role in people's lives; there is little pride in or celebration of the community's diverse cultures. High rates of disease, injury, and illness occur and are seen as inevitable. Health disparities are high. People with functional and access needs are pushed out of a full and active community life. Quality child care and eldercare are poorly available and/or mostly unaffordable. People hesitate to seek out mental health support and can't find options when they do.

OPTIMAL CAPACITY

Most individuals and families perceive their lives are going well: they feel that they have healthy relationships, positive emotions, the chance for creative self-expression, and an ability to realize their potential. Rates of disease, illness and injury are low. People, including those with functional and access needs, are able to be productive at work and contribute to their community. Public and institutional policies, environments, and attitudes reflect a high value on community, family, and individual health. Residents have wide access to the arts, culture, and the outdoors. Quality health care services are accessible to all; few health disparities exist across subpopulations. There is ready access to quality and affordable child care, adult care, and systems to support aging in place.

RATIONALE

Explain reasons for your rating; cite data, if possible

NEXT STEPS

Describe next action points

COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING:

Critical Infrastructure

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVOLVES

A community's capacity—embodied in physical capital, organizations, personnel, and procedure—to move people, goods, and/or electronic information safely, efficiently, and reliably, within, into or out of the area, affording economic and social opportunities to residents on an equitable basis

WHAT COMMUNITIES MIGHT LOOK LIKE WITH...

LOW CAPACITY

Physical parts of transportation (e.g., bridges, buses) and tele-communications systems (e.g., phone lines, cellular towers) show deferred repairs, lax security, and potential safety hazards. Users do not expect affordable, quality services: e.g., buses are infrequent and late; road repairs are poorly done and ill-timed; broadband internet and cellular service are unreliable; fees are weighted toward operators' financial interests. Transportation routes and mass transit schedules make getting to work, schools, grocery stores, and the doctor difficult, especially for people of limited means. Heavy use of personal vehicles contributes to poor air quality and physical activity. Cellular coverage favors certain neighborhoods; local libraries struggle to meet public demand for broadband access.

OPTIMAL CAPACITY

Physical elements of the transportation and tele-communications feature the latest technology and engineering standards: e.g., the last structurally deficient bridge is fully funded for repairs, and the plan to divert traffic during its upgrade is minimally disruptive. Internet access via fiber optics is a community wide opportunity. Local subway and/or bus lines are bustling, and they rely on sustainable energy sources. Given desirable routes and affordable fares, people turn more toward mass transit to save money and reduce environmental impacts. Broadband access is fast, affordable, and evenly distributed across the community; cable programming reflects the diversity of the local community and informs residents in ways that advance civil discourse, public education, and cross-cultural learning.

RATIONALE

Explain reasons for your rating; cite data, if possible

NEXT STEPS

Describe next action points

ASSESSING OUR COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING

The ability of a community to deliver goods and services to its residents

<p>Governance and Economy 1—10</p>	
<p>Life Necessities 1—10</p>	
<p>Health and Wellbeing 1—10</p>	
<p>Critical Infrastructure 1—10</p>	
<p>Domain Average Take average of assessment rating for the above 4 sub-factors</p>	

COMMUNITY FUNCTIONING

The ability of a community to deliver goods and services to its residents

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IN RATING YOUR COMMUNITY (add others, as applicable)

FACTORS	AS APPLICABLE, TO WHAT EXTENT DOES YOUR COMMUNITY MANIFEST THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS, QUALITIES, AND ACTIVITIES?
<p>Governance and Economy 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your local government actively seek to involve stakeholders when developing laws, rules and regulations? When the government adopts laws, rules and regulations do they incorporate or respond to stakeholder concerns? • Do local government enforcement processes and agencies equally enforce the laws/rules? • Does the community stay informed and actively participate in local government issues? Do you believe your vote is important in selecting elected officials, or passing local referendums? • Do you vote in county and local elections? • Do most people and households have access to, and are able to participate in, the local economy? • Do you have a feeling of optimism about your economic future? • Do you believe that your community will prosper, or are you skeptical about your community's future?
<p>Life Necessities A community's capacity to provide and maintain systems and infrastructure that enable sustained access to goods and services that are indispensable for life, including food, water, housing, and education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all residents have access at all times to nutritionally adequate and safe foods and the assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (that is, without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies). • Do most people believe that they live in stable, safe, adequate, and affordable housing and neighborhoods and that segregation is not a major issue? • Are clean water supplies and adequate sewage capacity regularly available to people, independent of their neighborhood or zip code? • Do residents feel that the schools are vital and active components of their community, and do they become involved in school-related events or matters? • Do students, teachers/staff, and parents feel that they have good quality, safe schools, and are there standardized ways school quality is measured?

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<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>A community's capacity to promote, nurture, and protect the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of all people wherever they live, learn, work, worship, and play:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places where people can readily connect with each other and nature; • Arts, culture and the opportunity for creative expression; • Safety nets for elderly, children, the homebound, and others in need; • Quality, accessible health care and adequate public health services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent do schools, worksites, parks, places of worship, homes, public buildings, etc., facilitate access to healthy states (e.g., nutritious food, physical activity, positive relationships, and creative expression)? Are these accessible to all regardless of income, age, language, ability, etc.? • Do government, big employers, and other influential entities have clear, widely known, and well received policies in place to protect and promote health? • To what extent do all people have ready access to health care that is timely, relevant, culturally appropriate, and affordable? • Do health care providers integrate and coordinate services in an effort to provide holistic, comprehensive and high-quality care? • To what extent are people satisfied with their quality of life? Do they feel they have good living conditions, healthy relationships, positive emotions, and the ability to realize their potential? Are there wide disparities in this among groups? • Is there ready access to arts, cultural events, and venues for creative expression, learning and growth? To what extent are such offerings accessible to all? • Are there structures, programs, social supports, and a culture that supports healthy and independent aging? Are viable and quality options available when longer term/skilled care is needed? • Is quality child care affordable and available? Are worksites family friendly (eg, breastfeeding friendly, leave policies for birth, adoption, or eldercare)?
<p>Critical Infrastructure</p> <p>A community's capacity—embodied in physical capital, organizations, personnel, and procedures—to move people, goods, and/or electronic information safely, efficiently, and reliably, within, into or out of the area, affording economic and social opportunities to residents on an equitable basis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are physical structures and assets (e.g., roadways, bridges, rail lines, mass transit vehicles, bike lanes, cellular towers, broadcast networks, relay stations) structurally sound and properly maintained? • Are system operations reliable and well managed—e.g., does the mass transit run on time, is routine road maintenance done efficiently with limited disruptions and diversions, are broadband internet and mobile phone service outages rare? • Do systems provide the community multiple benefits—e.g., does transportation enable easy access to markets and jobs (economic development), safe bicycle and pedestrian traffic (public health), and carpooling and mass transit (environmental protection); do broadcast networks further quality of life (music and entertainment), education and awareness, and social connectedness? • Are system benefits distributed equally throughout the community—e.g., does the transportation system enable all income groups ready access to health care, education, and recreational facilities? Do disadvantaged neighborhoods receive a fair share of cellular coverage and internet access?