

ASSESSING COMMUNITY READINESS

We have developed a tool that is intended to assist communities in reviewing the dimensions of readiness and determine if they are ready to address an identified need in their community (e.g., youth substance abuse). When using this tool, it is important that the community has already identified a need to address.

Please list the identified community need: _____

Instructions: Answer the following questions either individually or as a group (e.g., members of a local coalition or organization). If possible, include input from leaders within the community who have a good understanding of the identified need. For each response, please check the box corresponding with your answer.

Community Profile Areas		Yes	Somewhat	No
Community Knowledge & Efforts				
1	Are community members aware that this need should be addressed?			
2	Are community members supportive in addressing this need?			
3	Are community members committed to making positive change?			
4	Will community members be willing to get involved and help?			
5	Is there a sense of community among community members?			
Community Leadership & Stakeholders				
6	Are community leaders aware that this need should be addressed?			
7	Do or will leaders in the community support efforts to address this need?			
8	Are community leaders committed to making positive change?			
9	Will community organizations support efforts to address this need?			
10	Are leaders prepared and capable of addressing the need?			

Community Profile Areas		Yes	Somewhat	No
Implementation Assistance				
11	Are there community organizations that could lead the effort?			
12	Are professionals with appropriate qualifications available to deliver the effort?			
13	Are there experts in the community that could advise the effort?			
Supports or Barriers				
14	Are there laws, practices, or policies that promote addressing this need in your community?			
Available Resources				
15	Is funding available in your community to implement and sustain a change effort?			
16	Is it probable that funding will be sustained over time?			
17	Is it probable that the community resources can be sustained over time?			
Total Yes Responses (2 Points Each)				
Total Somewhat Responses (1 Point Each)				
Total Points (Sum of all points)				

Discussion of Results

If you responded **No** to any of the questions highlighted in **blue**, we recommend that you stop moving forward with the change effort and focus on building community readiness. Our Exploring Community Strengths and Needs Tool can help you formulate a plan on how to move forward in building the community support you need to reach a level of readiness that will assist your community in achieving the expected outcomes of your change effort.

Total Points	Level of Community Support	Recommendations
>31	Strong	Move forward with your identified change effort. You have strong community support and the community is prepared to embrace a change initiative.
24-30	Moderate	Proceed with caution. You may want to build community support before moving forward. Use our "Exploring Community Needs and Strengths" tool to identify needs and weaknesses within the community to focus change efforts.
<23	Weak	Take some time to build community support before undertaking the identified change effort.

The Clearinghouse has Technical Assistance (TA) Specialists who are available to help by offering support and guidance through the program selection, implementation, and evaluation process. These TA Specialists are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST/EDT Monday through Friday. Use the information below to contact the Clearinghouse!

Please Note: This tool was developed based on the review of Literature and Tools related to Community Readiness. Please see our Community Needs and Readiness Reference sheet for a list of references.

