

Exploring Community Strengths and Needs

The Exploring Community Strengths and Needs Tool is intended to be a resource to assist communities in identifying strengths and weaknesses and developing a plan of action for an intended change effort. If possible, include stakeholders from the community and other individuals with a vested interest in the change effort to complete the following questions.

Please list the identified community need: _____

Community Knowledge and Efforts

Please list the possible effort(s) to address the need (e.g., implement prevention and intervention programs that address the need):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Community Leadership & Stakeholders

Please list any known leaders and organizations that will support efforts and programs to address this need:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Please list any known leaders and organizations that will not support efforts and programs to address this need:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Implementation Assistance

Please list any known community organizations that could lead the effort (e.g., implement a prevention program):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Please list any known community professionals with the appropriate qualifications that could implement or advise the effort:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Supports or Barriers

Please list the laws, practices, or policies and to whom they apply (e.g., youth under the age of 17 years of age have a curfew of 10:00 p.m.) that will support the change effort:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Please list any law, practices, or policies and to whom they apply that may be potential barriers for those associated with the change effort (e.g., time investment, cost, etc.):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Please list the benefits for those associated with the change effort (e.g., relationship building, making a difference in the community, greater knowledge around the issue):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Available Resources

Please check all sources of funding which are available in your community:

- Grant Funding Financial Donations
 Corporations Other _____

What resources are available within the community to support the change effort?

- Transportation Volunteers Monetary Donations
 Evaluators Local Experts Free Space
 Technology Support Local Groups Other: _____

Overall Assessment

Based on the questions above, please list all of the Community strengths in each Readiness area that will support the change effort:

Community Knowledge & Effort
Community Leadership & Stakeholders
Implementation Assistance
Support or Barriers
Available Resources

Based on the questions above, please list all the items that the community needs to address before the community is ready to begin the change effort. For each need, list potential actions steps to address those needs. Be as specific as possible. When appropriate, include an intended date for each action step to be completed and an individual or group assuming responsibility for each step. For example, a "Community Need" under Available Resources could be funding and an "Action Step" could be to identify and apply for grant funding by Dec 2016.



Readiness Area	Community Needs	Action Steps
Community Knowledge & Effort		
Community Leadership & Stakeholders		
Implementation Assistance		
Support or Barriers		
Available Resources		

The Overall Assessment section should give communities an idea of what their strengths are and what areas need to be improved before implementing a change effort. If your community is ready to implement a change effort, such as a prevention or intervention program, we have developed a Program Fit & Feasibility Tool to assist communities in selecting the right program(s). If your community needs assistance in identifying some action steps to increase readiness, we at the Clearinghouse have Technical Assistance (TA) Specialists who can support you by providing some strategies.

Please Note: This tool was developed based on the review of Literature and Tools related to community readiness. A reference list is available upon request.

Our TA Specialists are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST/EDT Monday through Friday. Use the information below to contact us!

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