



Community Capacity

Identifying what you need- (hopefully) before you start.

What is "Community" Capacity?



Community Capacity

- ▶ Activities, resources and assets that increase a community's ability to achieve its mission or projects and sustain them over time.



Community Development Capacity

- ▶ **Element One: *Experience with Strategic Planning*.** A common vision for the future backed by a plan to achieve the vision is a powerful instrument, especially if it is understood and supported by the citizenry. Past experience with creating and implementing such a plan is important.
- ▶ **Element Two: *Project and Issue Advocacy*.** A plan for the future quickly becomes irrelevant if the successful and repetitive implementation of projects and the addressing of issues do not support it.
- ▶ **Element Three: *Active, Effective Organization*.** It takes an organization focused on the implementation of the strategic plan to consistently advocate for priority projects and issues.
- ▶ **Element Four: *Capable, Professional Staffing*.** Community development is a profession, and it is essential that capable people be in the right positions for a community.
- ▶ **Element Five: *Dedicated Community*.** While professional staff people are essential, they need the support and active involvement of the citizenry to be effective.
- ▶ **Element Six: *The Right Attitude*.** Communities have a collective attitude about their future. This attitude can either support or hinder community development capacity.
- ▶ **Element Seven: *Community Advocacy*.** Project and issue proponents must keep in mind that their agenda is a subset of the overall direction of the community.



Element One:

Experience with Strategic Planning

Factor: History of Strategic Planning Activity

Factor: Community's Acceptance of Strategic Plan

Factor: Professional Development of Plan

Factor: Use of the Plan

Factor: Plan Updating



Element Two: Project and Issue Advocacy

Factor: Identification of Specific Community Development Priorities

Factor: Identification of Regional Strategic Issues

Factor: Large Scale Project Advocacy

Factor: Coordinating Project with State and Local Processes



Element Three: Active, Effective Organization

Factor: Organizational Connectedness

Factor: Organizational Stability

Factor: Organizational Focus on Business of
Community

Factor: Frequency and Effectiveness of
Meetings

Factor: Organizational Board Training



Element Four: Capable, Professional Staffing

Factor: Skill Level of Staff Person

Factor: Administrative Support Staff

Factor: Staff Focused on Organizational Objectives (not fund-raising)

Factor: Staff Training



Element Five: Dedicated Community

Factor: Opportunities for Service

Factor: Celebration of Volunteerism



Element Six: The Right Attitude

Factor: Proactive vs Reactive Community

Factor: Viewing the Glass: Is it half-full?



Element Seven: Community Advocacy

Factor: Community Commitment to Strategic Direction

Factor: Subordination of Projects to Community



Continue to ask:

- “What’s our ability to get this done?”
- “Who are our volunteers, professionals, staff?”
- “What are our resources for volunteers, staff, training, projects, etc?”
- “Who are the experts that can assist us?”

Want to know more?

Karalea Cox

karaleacox@commonsensefacilitation.us

kc@buildingcommunities.us

928-245-1998

