Community Assets Survey

Instructions for survey administrators:

Community Assets are the building blocks of community change. As we break down the community mobilization and change processes, many necessary components to creating change become apparent. In particular, changes in individual empowerment and general human capital need to be paired with adequate community infrastructure and financial resources (or improvement efforts in these areas) to provide people with the power, resources, and motivation that are needed to effectively create community change. The community assets subscales listed below are appropriate for measuring these components that are important for community development. When administering the survey to participants, you can choose the subscales that are relevant to the constructs you are working to change and want to measure. Your goal should be to form a survey that is complete enough to fully measure your constructs of interest, but short enough so that participants will not find the task too burdensome.

Before administering the survey, it is important to make sure your participants know which community is being referred to in the survey. This will ensure that all participants are rating the same community. This survey has been piloted with low-literacy audiences to reduce the use of unclear wording or jargon. However, regional or cultural differences in language may occur, such that you may also need to give some definitions and clarifications when administering the survey.

Although this survey was designed with a pen and paper Likert Scale five choice response set, you can make the it more concrete if necessary and even limit it to verbal responses with 2 choices (true/false or yes/no) for very low literacy responses. However, this will reduce the sensitivity of the scale.

Please contact Susan Jakes at susan_jakes@ncsu.edu or Lisa Shannon at lisa_shannon@ncsu.edu with any questions.

Reference information:

Community Assets Subscales:

**Human Capital**
1. I know how to develop a survey about important issues in my community.
2. I know how to work with others to solve problems.
3. I have the communication skills to influence people in my community.
4. I know when important community events take place
5. I do not know how to gather information relevant to community issues
6. I have the skills needed to make improvements in the community
7. I know how to raise money to do community action projects.
8. I am not a leader in my community
9. I know how to develop leadership in my community

**Social Assets**
1. I know the names of a lot of people in my community.
2. People in my community often join together to work on problems.
Community Assets Survey

3. My community does not have strong leaders.
4. It is easy to pitch in and help work on problems in my community.
5. Local community groups do not usually work together on important issues.
6. Local organizations usually meet my community’s needs.

Physical Assets
1. The community is kept clean.
2. The landscaping in the community is not maintained.
3. The buildings in the community are well maintained.
4. There are not enough parks in the community.
5. There are public places in the community where community members can get together.

Economic Assets
1. The community has enough money to support programs for community improvement.
2. The community has the financial resources to give long term support to community projects.
3. People in the community who want to start a new program are unable to raise the funds they need.
4. Community members have access to money that can be used for community improvement.
5. Community members are not able to use community funds for important neighborhood projects.

Self-efficacy
1. I know I can make a difference in my community.
2. I can influence community members to take action on important issues.
3. I can influence the decisions that are made by the lawmakers in my community.
4. I do not have the ability to change things that I don’t like about my community.
5. I am not able to influence the laws that govern my community.

Motivation
1. I am motivated to be involved in my community.
2. I usually do not want to get involved in making decisions that will affect my community.
3. I feel driven to participate in community activities.
4. I do not feel a personal responsibility to participate in community projects.
5. I have the desire to be active in my community.

Perceived Local Support
1. Local policies support community improvement efforts.
2. Local service agencies (mental health, social services, schools, health department, etc.) support efforts to make the community a better place.
3. When people in my community try to create positive community change, community leaders usually cooperate.
4. My community does not have specific procedures in place to help start new community projects.
5. The leaders in my community do not encourage community members to participate in decision making.

Participation (Community)
1. Only a few people participate in community activities
2. People in this community generally volunteer for community projects
3. Most people in this area take an active role in the community
Community Assets Survey

4. Community members usually do not pitch in when there is work to be done in the community
5. Most people are involved in my community

Participation (Individual)
1. I do not participate in community activities.
2. I often volunteer for community projects.
3. I am involved in my community.
4. I usually pitch in when something needs to be done in the community.

Community Assets Scoring Directions

For all subscales, all items except those noted below are scored from 1 (indicating the lowest value for that item) to 5 (indicating the highest value for that item). Reverse scored items are scored from 1 (indicating the highest value for that item) to 5 (indicating the lowest value for that item).

Human Capital Subscale
- Reverse score #5 and #8
- Scale ranges from 9-45

Social Assets Subscale
- Reverse score #3 and #5
- Scale ranges from 6 - 30

Physical Assets Subscale
- Reverse score #2 and #4
- Scale ranges from 5 - 25

Economic Assets Subscale
- Reverse score #3 and #5
- Scale ranges from 5 - 25

Self-efficacy Subscale
- Reverse score #4 and #5
- Scale ranges from 5 - 25

Motivation Subscale
- Reverse score #2 and #4
- Scale ranges from 5 - 25

Perceived Community Support Subscale
- Reverse score #4 and #5
- Scale ranges from 5 - 25

Community Participation Subscale
- Reverse score #1 and #4
- Scale ranges from 5 – 25

Individual Participation Subscale
- Reverse score #1
- Scale ranges from 4-20
Instructions for Community Assets Survey Participants

You are about to be given a survey to see what you think about some things. This is not a test, and it will not be graded. Instead, we think your opinions are very important and we want to know what you think. It is important that you tell us what you really think, since there are no right or wrong answers.

All of your answers to this survey will be grouped together, and no single person’s answers will be made public. The only reason we are getting your name is so we can match your answers today with your answers later on. Your program leaders will not know how you responded to these questions unless you tell them. Although, your opinion is very important, you do not have to take this survey.

Please sign below if you are willing to fill out the survey.

______________________________________________
Signature

THANKS for sharing what you think!
**Community Assets Survey**

Indicate whether or not you agree with the following statements according to the scale below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. People in my community often join together to work on problems.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>2. The community is kept clean.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>3. The community has enough money to support programs for community improvement.</td>
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<td>4. I am motivated to be involved in my community.</td>
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<td>5. Community members have access to money that can be used for community improvement.</td>
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<td>6. I usually pitch in when something needs to be done in the community.</td>
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<td>7. I know how to work with others to solve problems.</td>
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<td>8. My community does not have specific procedures in place to help start new community projects.</td>
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<td>9. I know the names of a lot of people in my community.</td>
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<td>10. I do not have the ability to change things that I don't like about my community.</td>
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<td>11. People in this community generally volunteer for community projects.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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<td>12. I know how to develop a survey about important issues in my community.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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<td>13. I am involved in my community.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Community members are not able to use community funds for important neighborhood projects.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Most people are involved in my community.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>16. I have the communication skills to influence people in my community.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>17. I do not participate in community activities.</td>
<td>☐</td>
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Community Assets Survey

18. My community does not have strong leaders.

19. I usually do not want to get involved in making decisions that will affect my community.

20. Local service agencies (mental health, social services, schools, health department, etc.) support efforts to make the community a better place.

21. I do not know how to gather information relevant to community issues.

22. People in the community who want to start a new program are unable to raise the funds they need.

23. It is easy to pitch in and help work on problems in my community.

24. I feel driven to participate in community activities.

25. The buildings in the community are well maintained.

26. I can influence the decisions that are made by the lawmakers in my community.

27. I know how to raise money to do community action projects.

28. Local community groups do not usually work together on important issues.

29. I do not feel a personal responsibility to participate in community projects.

30. There are not enough parks in the community.

31. When people in my community try to create positive community change, community leaders usually cooperate.

32. Local organizations usually meet my community’s needs.

33. I can influence community members to take action on important issues.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>There are public places in the community where community members can get together.</td>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>Agree</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>The leaders in my community do not encourage community members to participate in decision making.</td>
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<td>36.</td>
<td>I know how to develop leadership in my community.</td>
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<td>37.</td>
<td>Most people in this area take an active role in the community.</td>
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<td>38.</td>
<td>I know when important community events take place.</td>
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<td>39.</td>
<td>Community members usually do not pitch in when there is work to be done in the community.</td>
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<td>40.</td>
<td>I am not a leader in my community.</td>
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<td>41.</td>
<td>I know I can make a difference in my community.</td>
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<td>42.</td>
<td>I have the desire to be active in my community.</td>
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<td>43.</td>
<td>Local policies support community improvement efforts.</td>
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<td>44.</td>
<td>I have the skills needed to make improvements in the community.</td>
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<td>45.</td>
<td>Only a few people participate in community activities.</td>
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<td>46.</td>
<td>The community has the financial resources to give long term support to community projects.</td>
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<td>47.</td>
<td>The landscaping in the community is not maintained.</td>
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<td>48.</td>
<td>I am not able to influence the laws that govern my community.</td>
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<td>49.</td>
<td>I often volunteer for community projects.</td>
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