

Assessing Our Group's Community Building Efforts and Outcomes

This self-assessment is designed for community groups that engage persons representing various interests in efforts to strengthen the capacity of the community to improve outcomes for families. It will enable you to identify the range and depth of community building efforts in four areas: A. Community building goals, B. Community building strategies/activities, C. Internal processes of the group, and D. Community building outcomes in the community. For each item check:

Yes, if your group has devoted recognized and significant effort (section A - C.) or achieved recognized and significant outcomes (section C).

Some, if your group has given some attention or had some impact

No, if your group has not made endeavors or achieved results

As you assess each community building element you may find it helpful to make a few notes on the way your group handles particular elements. Space is provided for this after each item.

My Group: _____

My Role(s) in the Group: _____

A. COMMUNITY BUILDING GOALS FOR THE COMMUNITY

1. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Does our group have a clear sense of the inter-relationship of families and community?

Comment: _____

2. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Has our group established empowering citizens and building community capacity as primary elements of our mission?

Comment: _____

B. COMMUNITY BUILDING STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Building Relationships

3. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Does our group map assets at the individual, associational and institutional levels in the community?

Comment: _____

4. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Does our group create cultural, social, or recreational opportunities with indirect community building benefits?

Comment: _____

Collective Action

5. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Does our group stimulate collective action of citizens to solve local micro problems and build community capacity?

Comment: _____

6. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Has our group moved from smaller, local actions to larger resident led campaigns for system or policy change?

Comment: _____

Broader Linkages

7. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Does our group foster new or strengthened civic infrastructure, e.g. groups/organizations or links between groups/org's?

Comment: _____

8. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Does our group make efforts to develop a shared vision for the community?

Comment: _____

9. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Does our group foster creative links and collaboration across sectors e.g. health, education, crime prevention, youth & family services, cultural activities, income supports, employment, economic development, housing, etc.?

Comment: _____

Citizen Skills

10. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Does our group endeavor to build skills of local residents for community participation and greater community self efficacy?

Comment: _____

C. INTERNAL: OUR GROUP'S MEMBERSHIP, INTERNAL PROCESSES, AND RESOURCES

Membership

11. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Is membership in our group representative of the community?

Comment: _____

12. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do we have strong degree of citizen participation in our membership?

Comment: _____

13. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do we systematically recruit and develop citizens?

Comment: _____

Member Relations

14. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do we identify, affirm and use the assets of each member?

Comment: _____

15. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do we make conscious efforts to build mutual understanding and cooperative spirit among group members?

Comment: _____

Communications

16. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Is the larger community well informed about our group's activities?

Comment: _____

17. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Are communications at meetings (language, materials, etc.) understandable and inclusive for all who are present?

Comment: _____

Decision-Making

18. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do all appropriate groups have a say in group decisions?

Comment: _____

19. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Is decision-making shared among many members of the group?

Comment: _____

Leadership

20. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do we have more citizens than professionals involved in leadership roles in our group?

Comment: _____

21. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do we make conscious and systematic efforts to develop leadership among our members?

Comment: _____

Resource Use

22. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Does our group use a fair and equitable process for distributing resources?

Comment: _____

23. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do programs, resources etc. produced by our group benefit those who are most in need or who had least access at the group's start?

Comment: _____

D. OUTCOMES FOR THE COMMUNITY

As a result of our group's activities:

24. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Are community groups and citizens better able to define and resolve concerns?

Comment: _____

25. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Are citizens more actively participating in the community?

Comment: _____

26. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do citizens, groups and the community at large have greater access to and control over resources?

Comment: _____

27. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Do children and families have a greater sense of community with their fellow citizens?

Comment: _____

28. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Are outcomes for children and families improved?

Comment: _____

29. Yes ___ Some ___ No ___ Has the quality of life in the community improved?

Comment: _____

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