



COPEWELL

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND COHESION SELF-ASSESSMENT

Jurisdiction Name _____



SOCIAL CAPITAL AND COHESION

Factors that help society function effectively, including social networks between individuals, neighbors, organizations, and governments, and the degree of connection and sense of belongingness among residents.

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND COHESION: Connectedness

CONNECTEDNESS INVOLVES

The ability to pull together as a community, based on a sense of belonging, neighborliness, and demonstrated patterns of sharing and caring for others.

WHAT COMMUNITIES MIGHT LOOK LIKE WITH...

LOW CAPACITY

Socially isolated, residents are unable to provide or accept help, whether at home, at the workplace, in the neighborhood, or across the larger community. Individuals feel no connection with or obligation to others in their same sphere. Neighbors don't rely upon each other and are ignorant of common concerns. Employees feel no common cause with coworkers. Community members feel disconnected from government, and public servants fulfill their roles in a perfunctory manner.

OPTIMAL CAPACITY

Community members have many connections through which they can offer or receive help. Family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, community groups, social service agencies and more are present in everyone's life as givers and receivers of support. Local residents hold each other in high esteem, whether they regularly interact face-to-face or not. People feel they "fit in" well with their neighbors, coworkers, and even passersby. If they had to relocate, residents would feel a sense of loss.

RATIONALE

Explain reasons for your rating; cite data, if possible

NEXT STEPS

Describe next action points

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND COHESION: Community Involvement

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT INVOLVES

The participation of community members in formal groups (e.g., religious organizations, school associations, neighborhood watch) where leadership inspires and members have opportunities to play meaningful roles.

WHAT COMMUNITIES MIGHT LOOK LIKE WITH...

LOW CAPACITY

The community has very few active associations or organizations that people participate in outside of home and work. The few groups that exist have low membership, poor attendance, disgruntled members, and uninspiring leaders.

OPTIMAL CAPACITY

The community has a vibrant life outside of work and home, with active school organizations, block associations, volunteer organizations, places of worship, and more. People are eager to join, active when they do so, and committed to growing and improving group activities. A lively events calendar fills public notices.

RATIONALE

Explain reasons for your rating; cite data, if possible

NEXT STEPS

Describe next action points

ASSESSING OUR COMMUNITY



SOCIAL CAPITAL AND COHESION

Factors that help society function effectively, including social networks between individuals, neighbors, organizations, and governments, and the degree of connection and sense of belongingness among residents.

Connectedness

1—10

**Community
Involvement**

1—10

Domain Average

Take average of
assessment rating for
the above 4 sub-factors

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND COHESION

Factors that help society function effectively, including social networks between individuals, neighbors, organizations, and governments, and the degree of connection and sense of belongingness among residents.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IN RATING YOUR COMMUNITY (add others, as applicable)

FACTORS	AS APPLICABLE, TO WHAT EXTENT DOES YOUR COMMUNITY MANIFEST THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS, QUALITIES, AND ACTIVITIES?
<p>Connectedness</p> <p>The ability to pull together as a community, based on a sense of belonging, neighborliness, and demonstrated patterns of sharing and caring for others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do people in your community know, trust and support each other? • Do people have family or friends that they can turn to during unexpected hardship (e.g., a lost job, car in repair shop, a death in the family)? • Do neighbors look out for one another (e.g., keep an eye on things, pick up mail when someone is out of town, lend each other tools)? • Do residents feel a sense of connection and an obligation toward the larger community? • Do people feel an emotional tie to their neighborhoods and the larger city? • If a disaster forced community members to relocate, would they feel a sense of loss in being uprooted from familiar people and places? • Do opportunities exist for people to volunteer before, during, and after a disaster; tapping into their skills and goodwill? Do they do so? • To what extent would community members pull together when confronting a disaster? • If people need to evacuate, do they have others they can ask for help (e.g., borrow money, get a ride, have a place to stay)? • Are shelters designed to meet the needs of non-English speakers, children, the elderly, the medically fragile, and the differently-abled?
<p>Community Involvement</p> <p>The participation of community members in formal groups (e.g., religious organizations, school associations, neighborhood watch) where leadership inspires and members have opportunities to play meaningful roles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kinds of community organizations are active in your hometown (e.g., school, block associations, places of worship, self-help groups, sports associations, arts and theatre, etc.)? • What's the variety and visibility of such groups? • How committed are people to such groups (e.g., do they volunteer their time, money, and/or goods; are leadership roles easily filled; do people play meaningful roles; do they engage others)? • What percent of adults in your community are registered to vote, and how many actually vote in a general election? • Do opportunities exist for people to contribute to emergency planning (e.g., LEPCs, CERT teams, Citizen Corps Councils), and what level of support is available to sustain these opportunities? How is involvement seen/perceived? • Have community organizations been engaged as partners in disseminating risk information and mobilizing resources for response and recovery? Do they initiate engagement/participation?