

# Community Capacity

**Definition:** The assets necessary to plan, implement, and sustain political, social, and/or economic change efforts that are inclusive and beneficial for the majority of the community.

## **Individual Capacity (Skills, Health, Confidence, Income)**

- People have enough income to cover their basic needs for food, shelter, clothing, & transportation.
- People have the skills and ability to perform and advance in their occupation.
- People have the physical and mental health to perform their work responsibilities.
- People have a sense of hope and confidence that positive change is possible.

## **Intellectual Capacity (Shared Knowledge, Innovation, Technology)**

- Effective organizations & institutions exist to support healthy communities, economies, and people.
- Access to technology and innovation is widespread.
- There are organizations and institutions successfully training people for jobs in the community.

## **Social Capacity (Trusting Relationships, Mutual Support)**

- There is a culture and practice of supporting the development of new and emerging leaders.
- Leaders having trusting and working relationships across public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- Community-based leaders and groups have the organization and ability to create change.

## **Cultural (Traditions, Customs, and Community Identity)**

- The community preserves its shared values and beliefs through expression and appreciation of its traditions, customs, and history.
- There is a strong community identity & pride that unites people around community building.

## **Natural Capacity (Access to & Stewardship of Natural Resources)**

- People have access to usable land and unspoiled natural resources that could be used sustainably in economic and community development pursuits.
- There is access to clean natural recreation areas to support people's health and happiness.
- The actions, support, and public will exist to restore/protect/make better use of natural resources.

## **Built Capacity (Community Infrastructure)**

- Basic infrastructure (i.e. water, sewer, electric, transportation) is in place and meets the needs of people and business.
- A communications infrastructure is in place that meets the needs of people and business.
- A community infrastructure is in place (i.e., parks, sidewalks, gathering space) to support the health and interaction between community members.

## **Political Capacity (Influence & Voice)**

- Grassroots participation and civic engagement is a normal part of the community.
- Anchor organizations, institutions, and businesses exist that can positively influence decisions on policies and use of resources to support the economic transition.
- Local elected officials are responsive to the community & supportive of development efforts.

## **Financial Capacity (Community Investments & Household Savings)**

- Families have savings that could be invested into their own enterprises or education.
- There are effective grantmaking institutions that support community development efforts.
- Banking and lending institutions are responsive to local opportunities and needs.
- Local businesses re-invest in the development of the local community.