

3.2 Gauge Your Community's Social Capital

Instructions:

- **What:** Find and use the characteristics of successful communities and community builders by using inventory to rate factors.
- **Why:** There is no guarantee of 100% success, but research shows that the higher a community's social capital, the higher the success rate in achieving your vision.
- **Who:** Community Action Team and/or Community Leaders

Community's Social Capital:

We break social capital into three classifications. Using the table below, indicate if this is true or false for your community, your community-building process and community-building organizations.

Characteristic	TRUE	FALSE
1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMUNITY		
Community awareness of the issue		
Motivation from within the community		
Small geographic area		
Flexibility and adaptability		
Pre-existing social cohesion		
Ability to discuss, reach consensus, and cooperate		
Existing identifiable leadership		
Prior success with community building		

Characteristic	TRUE	FALSE
2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMUNITY-BUILDING PROCESS		
Widespread participation		
Good system of communication		
Minimal competition in pursuit of goals		
Development of self-understanding		
Benefits to many residents		
Concurrent focus on product and process		
Linkages to organizations outside of the community		
Progression from simple to complex activities		
Systematic gathering of information and analysis of community issue		
Training to gain community-building skills		
Early involvement and support from existing indigenous organizations		
Use of technical assistance		
Continual emergence of leader, as needed		
Community control over decision making		
The right mix of resources		
3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMUNITY-BUILDING ORGANIZATIONS		
An understanding of the community		
Sincerity of commitment		
A relationship of trust		
A high level of organizing experience		
Flexibility and availability		