



Welcome! to the Measuring Community Capacity Resource Kit



The Measuring Community Capacity Resource Kit is a tool for community groups that focus on improving the lives of community members. The Kit can help groups reflect on, identify, and build on existing strengths to make their in the community healthy.

Measuring Community Capacity is not a test or an evaluation of the work community groups are doing. It is a tool to help community groups reflect on the way they work, and think about whether and how to build on existing strengths.

The heart of *Measuring Community Capacity* is a survey that asks about the background of the groups' members, about the way groups work together, and about the way groups work with other groups. The survey is divided into thirteen sections, which a group goes through together with the help of a facilitator and a recorder. Eight of the thirteen sections are designed for the group members to complete together in a discussion format, and the other five sections are designed for group members to complete individually. Groups then have the option of using the tools in this Resource Kit to work with their responses themselves, or of accessing a system we have set up via the Internet for a more in-depth data analysis of their responses.

This Resource Kit is divided into six sections: 1) Deciding to Use the Survey; 2) Preparing to Use the Survey; 3) Using the Survey; 4) Analyzing the Group's Responses; 5) Moving Forward – Using the Information; and 6) Feedback.

Measuring Community Capacity is designed to be as user-friendly and adaptable as possible. Your group can decide for itself how the Kit will be most useful to you. For example, you may decide to complete every section of the survey in one sitting, or you may decide to complete one or two sections at a time. You may decide you don't even want to complete every section of the survey – it's completely up to you. Many of the supports for using the survey are provided on the CD in a format you can edit and adapt for your group.

We are aware that community groups are dynamic, that membership in groups changes, and that people's knowledge and skills change all the time. It is our hope that community groups will use the survey on a regular basis – that way it's possible to measure changes to capacity over time. It is up to each group to decide how often to use the survey.

We see *Measuring Community Capacity* as a living, breathing resource that will evolve with time. It is a new resource, and until now there hasn't been anything like it available. We want to ensure that *Measuring Community Capacity* is as useful as possible to community groups, so we have included a feedback section in Kit. We need feedback from groups that have used the Kit, and we would very much appreciate your comments and suggestions! We will make improvements where possible on an ongoing basis, and send updates to the groups that use the Resource Kit.

We hope that you will find *Measuring Community Capacity* useful and helpful for supporting and strengthening your group's work for community health!

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